1874-2

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ATTACK

ON

THE PEOPLE'S DEPOSITORY FOR ONTARIO.

MR. G. M. ADAM, a bookseller in Toronto, having in his recent Pamphlet to the Premier, attacked the administration of the People's Depository for Ontario, without adducing any proof of his statements, the following letters were written in reply. They are for convenience reprinted in this form, together with the admirable replies of the Public School Inspectors, whose opinions Mr. ADAM had so entirely misrepresented:

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I. REV. DR. RYERSON'S DEFENCE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

To the Hon. O. Mowat, Q.C., M.P.P., Premier and Attorney-General of Ontario.

SIR,—I have just read a pamphlet of twenty-four pages, being a letter addressed to you by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, a bookseller in this city, and entitled "Reform in the Education Office"; "The Educational Book Depository"—a pamphlet replete with the grossest misrepresentations against the Education Department, and rank with numerous attacks upon the character of several gentlemen connected with it.

2. Had Mr. G. M. Adam's object been the public good, and not private gain, he would have published his pamphlet weeks ago, when his charges could have been investigated by competent authority before the meeting of the Legislature, and, instead of waiting until the midst of the session, when the very subjects which he misrepresents are under the consideration of the Legislature, and when, as he of course, intended, the accused would have no opportunity to refute his false statements. But I much mistake, sir, your own sense of fairness and public duty, as well as that of the members of the Legislative Assembly of all parties, if the important matters of the Education Department are to be dealt with under the influence of downright misrepresentations, without an opportunity being afforded to vindicate the character of honourable servants of the public, impugned, and to justify the wisdom and importance of a feature of our system of public instruction which constitutes a prominent characteristic of its superior excellence and efficiency.

3. If, Sir, sustained by the public and aided by all parties in successive parliaments for thirty years, I have been enabled to devise and develop a system of public instruction, not only valued by the people of this country, but more or less copied in every British Province of America and Australia, and in England itself, I do not believe our Legislature will maim, much less destroy, a vital part of it without enquiry and deliberation. Nor can I even suspect that any considerable portion of my fellow countrymen will regard me as a fool or a knave, and an enemy to my country in one department of our school system, when my very assailants admit that I have done good service to the public in other departments of it. As well may it be alleged that the Education Department itself is no longer necessary, as that the Educational Depository has outlived its necessity and usefulness; and I avow my profoundest conviction, strengthened by experience, observation and intercourse with educationists, at home and abroad, that apart from the infancy or age of our country or of its school system, but from the nature of the work to be done and relations and duties of the parties engaged in it, that the Educational Depository is as *essential* to the complete effectiveness of our school system, as the right arm is essential to an effective man. Mr. G. M. Adam adduces from writers on political economy and sociology, quotations which have no more application to the subject of the Educational Depository than star-gazing has to agriculture. He applies to the depository the terms, "inefficiency, extravagance, and public loss." On the contrary I am prepared to demonstrate before any parliamentary committee by all the evidence that the nature of the subject will admit, that the depository both in theory and practice, is justified upon the grounds of *efficiency*, *economy* and the *public good*.

4. Mr. G. M. Adam's pamphlet of unsupported assertions and calumnious imputations, might be met by simple denial and demand for investigation, but I will first adduce two or three specimens which will exhibit his inner man, as his pamphlet shows his outer man.

5. He charges the Educational Department again and again with purchasing books through an "intermediate agency," "a commission merchant in fact," and says that the "stock is mainly purchased at *second-hand*, and by an inexperienced buyer." Not only are these statements without the shadow of truth, but I will show that Mr. G. M. Adam himself sought for this intermediate agency, to be "a commission merchant in fact," for the department; that he sought unsuccessfully to induce the department to do the very thing with which he now charges it. If he had succeeded we would have had a letter of praise instead of calumny; but, as he was unsuccessful, he assails us and becomes a patriot, as many a disappointed office and contract-seeker bitterly, but of course patriotically, assails the government that has rejected his applications. I have some fifteen letters of correspondence, extending from September, 1872, to September, 1875, between Mr. G. M. Adam and his firm and this department, on the purchase of English books through their House, as the "intermediate agency," but I will confine myself to extracts from two or three of these letters. In a letter dated September 30th, 1872, Messrs. Adam and Co. say:

"We are now in receipt of our new stocks, our Mr. Adam's personal purchases in Britain this summer, and we take the liberty of bringing to your notice the accompanying selection of samples, representing various lines in our fall stock, which we shall have full supplies of, and will be able to execute at advantageous terms.

"Our stock will be drawn from over a hundred leading British publishers, and will embrace the choice and important publications of all the prominent houses. We enclose memo. of the samples sent you on approval at net rates for quantities, and we shall be pleased to receive your further favours. There are many special lines, besides, which we should be glad to bring to your notice—in educational, professional, and general literature—if you would do us the honour to call and run over our stock; or, if more convenient, the writer will be glad to confer with you at your department in regard to them."

6. In a letter dated 3rd Oct., 1872, Messrs. Adam and Co., after mentioning numerous books and their prices, say:—

"A few only are remainders, and are quoted low, but the bulk are specimens of current and fresh stock, which is constantly being turned over. The publications of the house of John Murray, London, we can now sell at advantageous rates—a list of some of Smith's educational works we enclose from which we can give you —discount. Messrs. Longman's books also we should endeavour to quote at same discount—net for cash. The books in bindings at —off net; and in general, from the retail price now ruling, of all English stock we will give you supplies at—off the sterling prices laid down, but not subject to any cash discount further."

7. Last autumn, September 18, 1873, Mr. G. M. Adam addressed the following letter to Dr. Hodgins:—

"Dear Sir,—I have just returned from England, and find the stock now arriving I personally selected there. It occurs to me there are a few lines you would like to see, I pick up a few at random and send them herewith with quotations. If you could make it convenient to drop in and run over the wareroom, you might alight on some stock which we can sell advantageously. Every steamer will bring us further shipments, and I will proceed to prepare a catalogue and send you a copy at an early day.

"Can you use more of Dr. Punshon's Lectures, 'Toronto of Old,' &c., than formerly."

8. To the above letter Dr. Hodgins replied as follows:—

"Education Office,
Toronto, 25th Sept., 1873.

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 18th inst., I have the honour to thank you for your attention, and to state that as we are in communication with the English publishers ourselves, we are not in a position to order books except from them *direct*. Our invariable rule is to order only from the individual publishers, unless in rare and special cases.

"To avoid any inconvenience, we shall be happy to keep the books which you have sent, and will thank you for our invoice of them in duplicate.

"I have, &c.,
"(Signed) J. George Hodgins."
Deputy Superintendent.

9. Mr. G. M. Adam, however, was not willing to abandon his suit, but resumed it again in the following letter:—

"Toronto, Sept. 26, 1873.

"*J. George Hodgins, LL.D.*

"Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favour of to-day, and to thank you for the same. the very advantageous terms secured by us in our dealings with the English publishers I feel sure will enable our making your quotations for British stock as satisfactory as those of your direct importations, while the supplies can be had on call. Perhaps, however, a call upon us at our warerooms, when convenient, will indicate this more clearly. Meantime, to your request, we hand you invoice of recent consignment, and that of a small one in July.

"We shall take the liberty of submitting you our forthcoming catalogue at an early day.

"I am, &c.,
"(Signed) G. Mercer Adam.
"For A. S. & Co."

10. It is perfectly clear from the foregoing extracts of correspondence, that Mr. G. M. Adam sought persistently to become the "intermediate agency," the "commission merchant in fact," between the Education Department and the English book publishers. Had he succeeded there would have been no pamphlet against the department, as it would soon have become dependent on Mr. Adam's generosity; and he would soon have become the "commission merchant in fact," for booksellers generally, and at length able, with a little Toronto "ring," to rule the prices of books in Ontario, to the increase of them at his pleasure, at the expense of the school authorities and all other book purchasers. But Mr. Adam having failed in his policy, now charges the department, without a particle of proof, with doing what he sought in vain to make it do, and what he knew it had not done from the evidence of his own experience and Dr. Hodgins' letter above quoted, and which was in his possession.

11. I may add that there are persons connected with the Education Department who have had longer experience in the purchase of books than Mr. Adam himself, and know too much of the business to be deceived or seduced by this plausible sharp tradesman's offers and representations.

12. Then "in the matter of text-books," Mr. G. M. Adam speaks of our text-books as "unsuitable," "for the most part worthless," while "such valuable series of educational works, as those from the British publishing houses of Macmillan, Longman, Rivington, Cassell, Nelson and Collins, are excluded, so that the inferior and untrustworthy productions of officials may be forced upon the schools."

13. The untruth of Mr. G. M. Adam's statement may be judged of, when it is known that our series of readers and list of text-books were prepared by such men as Dr. McCaul, Dr. Ormiston, Dean Grasett, and others, with all the text-books mentioned by Mr. Adam before them, and a great many others issued by school book publishers, both in Great Britain and the United States; that all the other text-books were revised or recommended by them, and sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction, in the adoption, publication, and sale of which not an "official" of the department has a farthing's personal interest.

14. But supposing, as Mr. G. M. Adam advocates, the various English text-books mentioned by him were authorized as our school text-books, what absence of all classification and uniformity in our schools, and what enormous expenses to parents, besides inconvenience to teachers and children, by the introduction of various English books! Mr. Adam would, of course, profit largely by the importation and sale of such books, but there would be more than a corresponding loss to the purchasers of such books and the schools using them, and a corresponding discouragement and loss in the Canadian manufacture and adaptation of our text-books. I am confident that our Canadian school text-book will favourably compare, in the judgment of competent and impartial persons, in the matter and adaptation, to any of the text-books mentioned by Mr. G. M. Adam, apart from their greater cheapness, and being the productions of our own country.

15. I will reserve my more important remarks on Mr. G. M. Adam's pamphlet for another, and, I hope, briefer letter.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. Ryerson.

II. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DEFENDED.

By The Rev. Dr. Ryerson.

(second and last letter.)

To the Hon. O. Mowat, Q., M.P.P., Premier and Attorney-General of Ontario.

Sir,—I now proceed to notice the more serious and specific charges of Mr. G. M. Adam against the Education Department, its work and its officers.

1. Mr. G. M. Adam speaks as contemptuously of the *Journal of Education* as he does of the Canadian School text books, and, of course, for the same reasons. On this point I have to make three remarks. 1. I established, edited, and published it, and paid all deficiencies as to receipts for defraying the expenses of it myself for six years; when I informed the Government that I should not continue it unless the Legislature would provide for its publication, so as to furnish School corporations and other school officers with a copy each to assist them in their duties, and in the management of the schools. 2. Besides making the *Journal of Education* the medium of all official circulars, notices and school intelligence, I have thought it best to make it the depository and medium of the most interesting educational intelligence from other countries, and of the best thoughts of the best educational writers, selected and compressed from various books, reports and educational periodicals published in Europe and America, and not to fill its pages with long prosy papers purporting to be original, but interesting chiefly to the writers themselves; much less have I made it the medium of controversy, even for the vindication of myself from any of the various attacks made upon me. In this the *Journal* has been regarded as a valuable treasury of useful knowledge in educational matters by gentlemen abroad as well as at home, whose opinions are worth a hundred times more than those of Mr. G. M. Adam, even if he were not an interested and prejudiced party. The late Chief Justice Bovill said once on the Bench that he could

less go without a weekly paper called *Public Opinion*, than any other newspaper in England; yet *Public Opinion* like the *Journal of Education*, consists of selections from the public press of Europe and America, with summaries of news, notices, and very brief letters on particular subjects. 3. Were the *Journal of Education* to be made what Mr. G. M. Adam indicates, its pages would be largely filled with as frothy and worthless articles as those with which so many pages of Mr. G. M. Adam's *Canadian Monthly* are crammed, besides its diatribes against the Education Department—a singular illustration of Mr. G. M. Adam's notion of the office and dignity of a monthly publication which was to have soared above the region of political parties themselves, and to have been an impartial expounder of the first principles of Government and patriotism, but which has strangely degenerated down to the poor twaddle of silly tales, the quagmire of ignoble partizanship, and the selfish purposes of a sharp bookseller's speculation.

2. Mr. G. M. Adam charges the accounts of the Education Department with having been so "manipulated that it is impossible for any body of men not in possession of the secrets of the office, to verify or dispute them." My answer to this base imputation is, 1. That there are no "secrets of the office;" every book and every account is open to every member of the Government, and every member of the Legislature who desires to examine them. 2. That Mr. Alexander Marling, the chief accountant of the Department, is, I believe, second to no other man in Canada, in his profession, and is incapable of doing a dishonourable thing. Mr. Marling may well challenge the minutest inquiry by any Committee of the Legislative Assembly, or any other competent body of men, and bid defiance to the author of the unmanly and unprincipled stab that Mr. G. M. Adam has sought to inflict upon his integrity and character.* 3. That in answer to a similar charge against the Department some years ago, the Legislative Assembly appointed a large Committee to examine into the working of the Education Department. That Committee appointed a sub-Committee, of which the Hon. J. McMurrich was Chairman—certainly as good a judge of business, and of business accounts as Mr. G. M. Adam. That sub-Committee devoted days to its work, and, among other things equally honourable to the Department, unanimously reported as follows:

"Your Committee find that the system adopted by the Department is of so thorough and complete a character, that no funds can by any possibility be received without being checked by proper officers, whose several duties require them to make entries in various books, through which every item can readily be traced.

"They find that all moneys received by the Department are regularly deposited to the credit of the Government, with the exception of moneys intended to be disbursed in the purchase of articles outside of the institution (Trustee School seals merely), and that all expenditures are made by cheque, properly countersigned by the different heads of the department to which they respectively belong.

"They find that a perfect system of registration of every communication received by the department is maintained, by means of which the several officers to whose department the communication has reference, are immediately apprised of the contents, and answers are promptly returned to the same.

"Your Committee have also made a thorough investigation of the Depository department, and find that the existing arrangements for purchasing stock are satisfactory and well fitted for securing the same on the most favourable terms. The mode of disposing of the books is equally satisfactory." I may add, that Dr. May, who has chief charge of the book depository, and Mr. H. M. Wilkinson, who under Dr. May, has chief charge of the Map and apparatus branch, and of the daily sales, are as "invulnerable to any charge as to both ability and fidelity, as the chief accountant, and challenge the most searching Governmental enquiry."

3. Be it also observed, that every officer in the Department, from the oldest to the youngest, (as well as every teacher in the Normal and Model schools,) has been selected on his own supposed merits without any previous acquaintance or predilection on my part, and on trial for six months as to ability, faithfulness and industry, before being appointed to office. Not one therefore of the very many with whose appointment and promotion I have had to do, can feel that he owes anything to my favouritism, but everything, humanly speaking to his own merits. I venture to say that one and all the officers of the Education Department hurl back defiance in the face of Mr. G. M. Adam's wholesale slander against them, and ask for nothing but exhaustive Legislative or "Governmental enquiry" into their work and manner of doing it. And indubitable proof can be given that not a single officer of the department has any pecuniary or personal interest in the purchase or sale of any book, map or other article in the Depository.

4. In regard to Mr. G. M. Adam's attack upon the Educational Museum, I have to remark, that before commencing it, I consulted the late Chief Justice, Sir John Robinson, as to the law in regard to my disposal of the small annual sum provided for its establishment. I also consulted three members of the then Canadian Government, who were also in London, England, as well as the late Earl of Elgin, who furnished me with a pamphlet and documents showing the endorsement of my views by distinguished men in England, and among others, by the late Sir Robert Peel. I wished to furnish to the many young people trained as teachers, means of instructive and refining relaxation in their severe studies and hard work, and to my fellow countrymen who cannot (like Mr. G. M. Adam) travel to Europe, the opportunity of seeing copies and facsimiles of objects of art and of interest in European Museums, as well as many objects illustrative of the natural history and resources of our country, and models and collections useful for practical purposes. Many thousands from every part of Canada have visited the Museum, as have many hundreds of educated travellers from the United States† and England, who have, with one accord, expressed their gratification, and not a few their astonishment, that so much could have been done with so small means, when they learned the comparatively insignificant sum which had been expended—a sum the appropriation of which no one has ever felt, and even of the existence of which few were aware. The work speaks for itself; but in whatever estimation it may be held by others, it is of course a grievance to Mr. G. M. Adam, as it does not bring him pecuniary gain.

5. Mr. G. M. Adam alleges against the Department that the proceedings of the Council of Public Instruction are not published; but I have never yet heard of the publication of the minutes of the Governor in Council, or of the Executive Council, or of the Senate of the University. But I may add that the minutes of all the meetings of the Council of Public Instruction for several years were laid before the Legislative Assembly in 1870, on motion of Mr. Blake; since which time they have been regularly transmitted, as soon as confirmed, to the Provincial Secretary, subject to be published or otherwise, at the pleasure of the Government.

But on his last page, Mr. G. M. Adam unsays all that he had said and demanded in the preceding pages of his pamphlet. After having denounced the censorship of the Council of Public Instruction over text and other books for schools, he admits that the Council should examine and recommend books; that there should be a "Depository;" that the department should publish yearly a catalogue of all books and maps sanctioned by the Council, with supplementary lists monthly or quarterly during the year, with such prices affixed as will not prevent the trade competing with the Depository. I thank Mr. G. M. Adam for his vital, but to the whole of his own theory, fatal admission. The whole of his pamphlet of grievances now dwindles down to the secret which at last escapes him, namely, that the prices of the books at the Education Depository are too low for even him to compete with, notwithstanding his boasted advantageous purchases from more than a hundred English booksellers, against the 53 leading English booksellers with whom the department has had dealings. The members of the Legislature, and the School authorities throughout the land will now understand, that one prime object of Mr. G. M. Adam's crusade against the Education Department is to advance the prices of the books which they require for their libraries and schools.

6. And I have further to add that whereas formerly we imported (as Mr. G. M. Adam now wishes) our school maps, globes, and other articles of school apparatus, we at length began to get them manufactured in Canada. I have the samples of imported articles, as well as those of Canadian manufacture; and while the former is inferior to the latter in quality and adaptation, the Canadian manufactured articles are on an average from twenty to eighty per

* Until Confederation was accomplished the accounts were sent to Ottawa, and the auditor, Mr. Langton, who is not accused of an undue bias in favour of the Education Department, gave the following evidence before the Departmental Commission of 1863:—"The Superintendents of Education send me vouchers for all their expenditure. The accounts of the Upper Canada Superintendent are very regular, and are amongst the most correct in form that come to my office."—*Sessional Papers No II, Vol XXI, Session* 1863.) After the educational service was transferred by the Confederation Act to the control of the Government of Ontario, precisely the same system of accounting that had been approved by Mr. Langton was continued, until the system was changed by order of the Government. The change consisted simply in this, that whereas under the former practice the Government issued money to the department, which was expended and afterwards vouched for; under the present mode certified vouchers in detail are transmitted to the hon. the Provincial Treasurer, and the payments are made through that department to the parties entitled to them, the only exception being the item of customs duties and petty expenses, for which an accountable warrant is issued.

† More than ten years ago, when the *Museum* had not half reached its present state of completeness, a party of some fifteen to twenty American ladies and gentlemen visited it among whom were the late Senator Johnson, of New York, and the late American statesmen, Mr Seward, known as Governor Seward before he was Secretary of State, and when yet a Senator of the United States. After having looked through the Education Department, and visited the Museum, Senator Johnson said aloud before the whole party—"Governor Seward, you must make a speech in the Senate, and tell our people how far the Canadians are ahead of us in these matters."

cent cheaper than the imported ones, while domestic industry and skill are developed, and money kept in the country that would be otherwise sent abroad. In this way no less than twenty thousand dollars have been kept in the country, and expended during the year 1873, in the manufacture of all our school maps, globes, and other school apparatus, and all by estimates and tenders, as the papers of the Department will show, and contrary to the statements of Mr. G. M. Adam.

7. To recapitulate and conclude, I beg the appointment and exhaustive investigations of a Committee of the Legislature, or of a Commission (the former, preferable), before which I am prepared to prove the following things:

(1.) That Mr. G. M. Adam has been most persistent, yet unsuccessful, in his efforts to induce the department to obtain its supplies from him of "various lines, drawn from over one hundred leading English publishers," which he had "personally purchased in Britain."

(2.) That his insinuations about "leakage" in the museum (except in the roof, which is, indeed serious), is pure fiction.

(3.) That the Department has always had direct dealings with all the great publishers in England, as well as with the publishers in the United States and Canada, and does not order its books through any intermediate agency.

(4.) That none of its stock is purchased "second-hand," although Mr. Adam has laboured sedulously to lead us into that trap with himself—no doubt as it now appears, of being used by him against the department

(5.) That no "selection" sent out is made in the manner he states; that catalogues and lists of new books for any out of stock are furnished to the school authorities, and no selection is ever made by officers of the department; except at the request of the parties ordering them.

(6.) That Mr. G. M. Adam misrepresents the views and opinions of the Inspectors and other Educationists in regard to the Depository.

(7.) That the Depository is self-supporting, and that even after allowing for salaries, rent, interest, insurance, depreciation of stock and other contingencies, there is a margin in favour of the public. This was substantially stated by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in January, 1869, after minute inquiry and personal examination.

(8.) That the "business" of the Depository each year is not "$25,000," as stated by Mr. Adam, but at least $50,000, as that worth of material ($53,000 in 1873) is sent out yearly to the schools, besides the ordering, receipt, classifying, marking and putting away of $50,000 worth of purchases

(9.) That for all articles made for the department, tenders of cost are required from parties concerned; or estimates in the case of parties who alone can manufacture them without having to import them from abroad.

(10.) That "only a printer in the British metropolis" is not employed and paid as Mr. Adam states; that he has never selected a single book, article of stationery, or other things as stated; that he merely packs and ships what is sent to him, or fills an order (as of glass, &c.), according to a list which has been sent to him in detail, and selected from published lists examined at the department.

(11.) That this department not only imports its own stationery, but that it also did so by order of the late Attorney-General as a trial; and that so well satisfied was he of the economy and efficiency of the plan that he authorized us to import it for the future for our department.

(12.) That no officer of this department has any pecuniary gain whatever from the transactions of the Depository; that no money except Customs duties and petty items is paid out by this department on an accountable warrant being issued by the Government, but every other payment on its account is made to booksellers, manufacturers, &c., (as well as to the municipalities, separate schools, superannuated teachers, &c.) by the Provincial Treasurer on invoices and vouchers previously furnished him; that every farthing received at the department from any and every source is paid into the public treasury, into which was paid in all during the year 1873 by the department the sum of $51,480.

* * * * * *

Sir, I believe I have as much good will on one side of the Legislative Assembly as on the other side, but whatever may be their feelings as individual members in regard to me personally, I believe they will not treat me otherwise than justly; and I ask for nothing more. I have only to add, that though far in the thirtieth year of my administration of an important and difficult department, and beyond the age of seventy, I will not, by God's help, relinquish my post while a stain of unrefuted calumny rests upon myself or those honourable men—not one of them of my own religious persuasion—who have laboured with me as the heart of one man for more than a quarter of a century, in a work that already invests our country with an enviable nobility, and bears help and hope to the poorest child in the remotest cottage in our land.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. RYERSON.

Toronto, Feb. 14, 1874.

III. THE EDUCATIONAL DEPOSITORY AND MR. G. M. ADAM.

To the Editor of the Mail:

SIR,—I observe in the *Mail* of yesterday morning, a letter of nearly three columns from Mr. G. M. Adam, purporting to be a rejoinder to my letter, in reply to his pamphlet of twenty-four pages against the Council of Public Instruction and Education Department in general, and against the Educational Depository and its managers in particular.

2. I am glad to see you acting upon the good old principles of British fair play, admitting to your columns what is said on both sides, and not, as one of your daily contemporaries of large pretensions, who makes and admits every sort of attack against the Education Department and its officers, but refuses to admit one word in their defence.

3. Not noticing the scurrilous verbiage which appears to constitute some four-fifths of Mr. Adam's letter, I have to remark as follows, respecting his principal statements:—

(1.) That of the money certified to the treasury for payment of the "London agent," not one penny has been remitted to him for the "*payment*" (as Mr. Adam unscrupulously asserts) of a single map or a single book for school libraries or prizes.

(2.) That there is not a shadow of truth in his statement, that any "percentage" or other "remuneration" was ever asked, "demanded" or "extracted" from the map mounter (M. J. B. Carter) referred to, or given or received by any one connected with the department. I notice a letter from Mr. Carter in this day's *Mail*, emphatically contradicting Mr. Adam's most shameful slander against the officers of the department in this particular.

(3.) That for the work done, which so much distresses Mr. Adam, in the drawing, reconstruction or correction of maps published by the department, not one-half of the sum has been paid which was specified in the tenders and estimates made by other parties. All these tenders and estimates were laid by me before the head of the Government at the time, in the hand-writing of the several parties concerned, and I accepted that which I was thus advised to do. For example, the Crown Lands Department asked a certain sum for reconstructing a certain map; one of the parties, abused by Mr. Adam, reconstructed the same map as prescribed by me, and twelve other maps for this same sum.

(4.) That in not a single case, Mr. Adam says "many cases," has "money remitted by trustees been suffered to lie for years in the hands of those in charge, because the correspondents of the Depository declined to accept any equivalent in stock which they had neither ordered nor desired."

(5.) That not one cent received at the Depository is permitted to remain one day "in the hands of those in charge" of the Depository, they being required to account for and pay over *daily* all such moneys, and the chief accountant receiving them, deposits them in the bank to the credit of the Hon., the Provincial Treasurer, as fast as they reach the sum of, at least one hundred dollars.

(6.) That it is not true, as stated by Mr. Adam, that "private seminaries, students, &c., are compelled to purchase foreign maps," since, by a long-standing arrangement, the lithographers who print the maps for the Depository, and constructed by it, can supply private schools and other parties with them.

4. Such are the six principal new charges which Mr. Adam brings against the department and its officers, all of which can be proved false before any commission of inquiry, in addition to his pamphlet misstatements which I have noticed in my two former letters, and proposed to disprove in the same way.

5. Mr. Adam denies having attacked the Chief Accountant of the Department, and yet he had represented him as so "manipulating" his accounts as to make them incomprehensible to any one "not in the secrets of the office." He also denies having attacked the officers of the department, yet charges them, in addition to former untruthful imputations, with extracting percentage for themselves, even from the map-mounter. Mr. Adam having applied the word "ring" to the Council of Public Instruction, yet his own words and sessional paper which he quotes, disprove his denial, as in the cases above noticed. Thus, the very letter alluded to by Mr.

Adam, refers to the members of the Council alone, and therefore, to them only could his word "ring" apply.

6. In another official document from the Government, quoted in this December number of the *Canadian Monthly*, is one in which it is charged, "that on two occasions, the Council has appointed members to paid employments in its gift."

It was shown in the Council's reply, that the members referred to were the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, and the Rev. Prof. Young, who had been appointed *examiners*, but to whom the Council had never paid a farthing. The Chief Superintendent represented their services to the Government, and by an order of the Governor in Council, each was paid a certain sum by the Provincial Treasurer. All this, as well as all the other matters referred to and enquired about by the Government, were explained by the Council, but its explanations are suppressed in the *Canadian Monthly*, and the printing of them has been suppressed in the sessional papers, to the great injustice of the Council and Education Department.

7. Mr. Adam represents me as "boasting" of the Depository, "an institution which sells at prime cost, without taking into account the expense of maintenance," &c., when I had never said anything of the kind, but had said expressly, that in the cost was reckoned the salaries of clerks, insurances, depreciation of stock, &c., at which cost, thus reckoned, the books, maps, &c., were supplied to the School Corporations and Municipalities.

8. Mr. Adam devotes half a column to the *Journal of Education*, but omits all reference to the important fact, that I had myself edited and published it for six years without a farthing's remuneration or assistance from the Government, and paying myself the deficiencies which were not met by the subscriptions, thus showing my own appreciation of the *Journal of Education*, before leaving to the Government and Legislature the alternative of its discontinuance, or furnishing it gratuitously to the school corporations, &c., who devoted gratuitously so much time and labour for the public interests. The public cost of its 6,000 copies for the Public School Corporations, and other school officers, is at the rate of forty-five cents per copy per year.

9. It appears from the Public Accounts, that Mr. G. M. Adam has received nearly $2,000 for supplying books to the Legislative Library last year. It does not appear, that Mr. G. M. Adam obtained this large sum by "public tender," and it would be a curiosity to institute a comparison between the prices which Mr. Adam charged and obtained for these books, (bought through his "intermediate agency") and the prices at which school corporations obtain the same kind of books at the Educational Depository.

10. Mr. Adam omits all reference to his own letters, in which he obsequiously solicited (what he afterwards denounced in his pamphlet,) "the intermediate agency," to be the "commission merchant in fact," to supply the Education Department with the books of English booksellers. He also omits likewise, all reference to the "searching Governmental enquiry," which he had demanded, and which I had solicited, and before which I proposed to prove *twelve* things, including a complete refutation of his twenty-four pages of false accusations. His omissions and silence on these essential points, involve a confession, and imply a shrinking that speaks for itself.

11. But I cannot consent to allow Mr. Adam, cuttlefish-like, to wriggle away uncaught, under the cover of the dark liquid of his scandalous charges against the Council of Public Instruction, the Education Department, and its officers.

And to refresh Mr. Adam's memory, and prevent misapprehension, or successful misrepresentation, I repeat, besides the six things above mentioned, that I beg the appointment and exhaustive investigation of a Committee of the Legislature, or of a Commission, (the former preferable,) before which I am prepared to prove the following things:—

(1.) That Mr. G. M. Adam has been most persistent, yet unsuccessful in his efforts to induce the department to obtain its supplies from him of "various lines, drawn from one hundred leading English publishers," which he had "personally purchased in Britain."

(2.) That his insinuations about "leakage" in the museum (except in the roof, which is, indeed, serious,) is pure fiction.

(3.) That the Department has always had direct dealings with all the great publishers in England, as well as with the publishers in the United States and Canada, and does not order its books through any intermediate agency.

(4.) That none of its stock is purchased "second-hand," although Mr. Adam has laboured sedulously to lead us into that trap with himself, no doubt for the purpose, as it now appears, of being used by him against the department.

(5.) That no "selection" sent out is made in the manner he states; that catalogues and lists of new books for any out of stock are furnished to the school authorities, and no selection is ever made by officers of the department, except at the request of the parties ordering them.

(6.) That Mr. G. M. Adam misrepresents the views and opinions of the Inspectors and other educationists in regard to the Depository.

(7.) That the Depository is self-supporting, and that even after allowing for salaries, rent, interest, insurance, depreciation of stock and other contingencies, there is a margin in favour of the public. This was substantially stated by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, in January, 1869, after minute inquiry and personal examination.

(8.) That the "business" of the Depository each year, is not "$25,000," as stated by Mr. Adam, but at last $50,000, as that worth of material ($53,000 in 1873) is sent out yearly to the schools; besides, the ordering, receipt, classifying, marking, and putting away of $50,000 worth of purchases.

(9.) That for all articles made for the department, tenders of cost are required from parties concerned, or estimates in the case of parties who alone can manufacture them without having to import them from abroad.

(10.) That "only a printer in the British metropolis" is not employed and paid as Mr. Adam states; that he has never selected a single book, article of stationery, or other things, as stated; that he merely packs and ships what is sent to him, or fills an order (as of glass, &c.,) according to a list which has been sent to him in detail, and selected from published lists examined at the department.

(11.) That this department not only imports its own stationery, but that it also did so by order of the late Attorney-General as a trial; and that so well satisfied was he of the economy and efficiency of the plan, that he authorized us to import it for the future for our department.

(12.) That no officer of this department has any pecuniary gain whatever from the transactions of the Depository; that no money, except customs duties, and petty items, is paid out by this department, on an accountable warrant being issued by the Government, but every other payment on its account is made to booksellers, manufacturers, &c., (as well as to the municipalites, separate schools, superannuated teachers, &c.,) by the Provincial Treasurer, on invoices and vouchers previously furnished him; that every farthing received at the department from any and every source, is paid into the public treasury, into which was paid in all, during the year 1873, by the department, the sum of $51,480.

I am, sir, very truly yours,

Toronto, 20th Feb. E. RYERSON.

(APPENDIX A.)

IV. LETTERS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

William R. Bigg, Esq., Inspector, No. 1 Leeds.—Mr. Adam's pamphlet was sent to me, as well as (I presume) to every Inspector, and, on reading it, I was much annoyed at the gratuitous insult conveyed in the assertion "that the circular sent *by you* to the Inspectors was intended to operate like a 'first warning' to the French journals to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands."

I am therefore much pleased to have the opportunity, which your circular affords, of stating most emphatically in reply thereto that, so far as I am concerned, Mr. Adam's statement is a misrepresentation of my views and motives.

I simply gave a frank opinion on the questions you submitted to me in your former circular, perfectly well aware that I was free to condemn or approve the policy of sustaining the Depository, and I also stated that the crusade was as much against the Depository as the Depository, and subsequent events have but confirmed my prediction.

With regard to the Depository, I wish to add to my former statement, that I have frequently tested the prices of books at a wholesale shop at Brockville, as compared with those of similar works at the former, and have invariably found a difference of at least 25 per cent in favour of the Depository irrespective of the 100 per cent Departmental allowance.

After I resigned the position of Principal of the United High and Public School of Brockville, I was succeeded by the present incumbent, Dr. Evans, and in the summer of 1872 he was authorized by the Board of Trustees to expend the sum voted for prizes among the town book-sellers, if he found he could purchase *nearly* as advantageously, as at the Depository in Toronto, taking into consideration the aforesaid Departmental allowance of 100 per cent.

As the result of Dr. Evans' investigation, with the determination, or rather inclination, on his part to purchase in Brockville, if possible, I may mention that the order was as usual transmitted to the Education Office, the Doctor having satisfied himself that, independent of the 100 per cent bonus, the books could be purchased at a less price from the Depository, besides the advantages of a better and more varied assortment. Perhaps it my not be inappropriate

further to observe, that the town book-sellers were aware of the contemplated purchase, and offered their wares for less than their regular prices.

Robert Kinney, Esq., M.D., Inspector, No. 2 Leeds.—"I can only reiterate my previously expressed opinion, namely, that School Corporations are almost unanimous in favor of the Depository. My experience has been that even without the additional 100%, books purchased at the Department are cheaper than those purchased from the trade. However I see no reason why the trade under suitable supervision should not be allowed to compete with the Depository in furnishing school requisites."

Rev. Geo. Blair, M.A., Inspector, No. 3 Leeds.—I have not seen Mr. Adam's pamphlet, but with reference to that particular passage in which he interprets, to suit his own views, the testimony of the Public School Inspectors, I have no hesitation in repeating distinctly and unequivocally, as my own unbiassed and often expressed opinion, that I consider the Book Depository at Toronto an essential and integral part of our School system, and that the book trade has no more right to demand the abolition of that establishment, as interfering with their business, than private teachers to demand the destruction of the Public School system itself. At the same time I express no opinion hostile to the mixed system proposed in the new School Bill, which, I think, would give the booksellers a fair chance to show what they can do, while the Depository would still remain as a safeguard to keep them in check.

Rev. John May, M.A., Inspector, Co. Carleton.—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your circular, asking me to say whether or not Mr. G. Mercer Adam has "correctly represented my views and motives" as expressed in my reply to your circular concerning the Educational Depository question.

Now, sir, I have great pleasure in stating that although I used strong language in my reply, I spoke from the very bottom of my heart. I desired to see the Depository maintained as it is. I still desire this. I trust no ruthless hand may be laid on what I deem one of the chief glories of our Educational system. There is no feature of that system of this country more excellent than this. It is the intellectual storehouse of Ontario, and it injures no one. We have not, hitherto, availed ourselves in this county of the advantages it affords to as great an extent as is desirable; but I was just laying my plans for public libraries, competitive examinations, &c., when lo! we are threatened with the destruction of the only means of procuring the necessary books. I say, advisedly, the *only* means, for if the books have to be purchased from the booksellers, they will never be purchased at all. It is with the utmost difficulty sometimes that I can persuade trustees to purchase even from the Depository, although it does allow 100 per cent.

The booksellers of Ottawa are noted for the high tone of their character, as well as their business ability and liberality. I have business relations with them all, and would be just as anxious to gain their good will as that of the Department. Indeed, sir, I will say frankly that could I be persuaded that a circular issuing from the Education Department, "was intended to operate like a 'first warning'" I should treat it with contempt.

The views I expressed I still hold. My motives were the good of education.

As for this Adam, I make little doubt that he is a true lineal descendant of the first of the name, who doubted his very Maker's motives, but believed the devil. Let us hope that he will still further imitate his namesake; and, being ashamed of his nakedness hide himself in the obscurity from which he has so suddenly, but not gloriously, emerged.

Rev. Wm. Ferguson, A.M., Inspector Co. Dundas.—I beg to say, without farther preamble, that a communication sent by a Mr. Adam, who is most wearisomely struggling to break down the Library and Instrument department of the Education Office, has reached me only to be put aside as an effort originating in the cupidity of self-interest, venting itself in the bitterness of commercial antagonism.

I did not deem it necessary to crowd upon the Education Office, expressions of satisfaction with the mode in which the various branches of that most valuable and ably administered Department were managed; but I find that silence is construed into dissatisfaction, and, therefore, must outspoken truth now assert its weight, and prove its power.

In my correspondence with the Department in behalf of schools, I have ever found the readiest attention paid to my communications, and in my intercourse with school teachers and school trustees, I have never yet heard the slightest complaint; and this at a time when complaints of imaginary wrongs are as readily accepted as if they were real.

When I first began to teach in Canada I had to import my school books from the Edinburgh House of Oliver & Boyd, and in establishing a school library, recourse was obliged to be had to the same firm. To-day, I might find in Canada all the school-books needful for the judicious and successful management of a High School.

In regard to the provision of books suitable for school, city, and village libraries, I must say that if this were left to individual enterprise and judgment, stimulated and guided only by the hope of gain, the provision would be ever poor—the selection ever imperfect.

I have in my possession trade catalogues of leading Toronto and Montreal booksellers, and if I were called upon to form a school library of standard and profitable books, I would be obliged to compile it from three or four different stocks, entailing risk, and assuredly increased expense in correspondence and carriage. On the other hand, I would undertake to supply from the Department catalogue, a complete library of books, whether in science in its latest developments, or in literature from Chaucer to Tennyson. If I were called upon to supply a complete set of apparatus for the elucidation of physical fact, or the illustration of chemical research, the only reliable source of supply would be the Departmental depository. I have compared the prices stated in the Education catalogue, and I find them, even independent of the large discount from the Education office, very reasonable in price, and the editions of the most reliable standard and unmutilated exemplar.

In conclusion, I beg to say, that I would hold the abolition of the Book and Instrument Department, as an irrefragable evidence of a retrograde march in the Legislature of the land, and as serving to induce the *impression*, that individual efforts would be sufficient to supply general wants, in all their variety of necessity, and in all their distance of locality;—an *impression false as a miser's calculation, and baseless as a maniac's dream.*

T. O. Steele Esq., Inspector, Co. Prescott.—I am most happy to state in reply to your circular, in reference to the "pamphlet" of Mr. G. Mercer (*Mercenary*) Adam, that I have examined said "Pamphlet," and find that self-interest (*!*) seems to have so completely gained the mastery over him as to deprive him, (if he ever possessed any,) of every sense of *Honour, Justice* or *Truth.* The conclusions which you deduced from my reply to your circular, in reference to the "Educational Depository," were perfectly correct; and as the replies of my "Fellow-Inspectors," though couched in different language, presented in various forms the same general ideas, it follows that you must be correct, as regards them also. The uniformity in the views of those Inspectors most capable, from long experience, of judging in the matter, is a most convincing proof, of that which no one, not wilfully blinded, can fail to see. I have also to thank you for a copy of your "second and last letter" to Hon. O. Mowat, in reply to Mr. G. M. Adam, and feel that you have thereby torn away the last screening plank from his "Refuge of lies," and left him exposed in all his unsightly filthiness. For my part he is welcome to all the "*comfort*" possible but I think that even a *fresh* and *more copious draught* of his favourite "*Porter,*" will hardly nerve him to make a further attack. I feel quite certain that the School Inspectors of Ontario, who like yourself, Respected Sir, have turned away from the allurements of pecuniary gain, presented by various departments of business, and have devoted themselves to the advancement of the Educational interests of their beloved Canada, can well afford to treat with contempt the base insinuations of a blinded mercenary. It cheers the hearts of us, who are but comparatively raw recruits, to see you after thirty years of active service, still boldly rushing into the fight to battle for the *right.* Believe me, you are surrounded by thousands in Ontario, who will hold up your hands until the final rout of the *Armies of the Aliens.*

A. McNaughton, Esq., Inspector, Co. Stormont.—My views concerning the Education Depository, were intended to express, not only the high estimation in which I held the 100% aid, but also my conviction of the expediency of maintaining the Depository unimpaired for some time to come. I do not think that the institution should be indefinitely perpetuated, but I believe that the time when we can safely dispense with it, has not yet arrived. Great efforts are now made towards establishing the educational system of this Province upon a broad and solid foundation, and one of the most essential requisites towards the accomplishment of that object, is a convenient emporium, aided by Government, from which trustees may be able to equip their schools with maps and apparatus, and at which they may be encouraged to procure on easy terms, suitable prize and library books.

After a few years shall have elapsed, and our system of Public Schools shall have been placed upon a good footing, and when greater facilities shall exist for obtaining elsewhere such requisites as are now furnished by the Depository, the latter may be dispensed with, and whenever its maintenance shall appear to disinterested

and unprejudiced persons to be inexpedient and unnecessary, its continuance ought to cease, and the business of furnishing the schools be thrown open to the trade.

Henry L. Slack, Esq., M. A. Inspector, Co. Lanark.—I have the honor to state in reply to your circular, that the statements of Mr. Adam are by no means a correct representation of my views respecting the Book Depository of the Education Department. As I observed in my answer to your former circular, I believe the Depository to be "both necessary, well conducted, and entitled to the support of educationists in this Province. I have experienced a great amount of pleasure and satisfaction in all my dealings there during the past eight years, while in position of teacher, and more recently as Inspector of schools. Last summer having had occasion to purchase upwards of $300 worth of books for prizes, to be given at competitive examinations, and for a Teachers' Library, I went to Toronto and spent about a day in making the selection. I had an excellent opportunity of observing the class of books kept, the prices &c., &c., and had no difficulty whatever in making the selection, alike satisfactory to myself and all others interested in them. Having had a great deal of experience in purchasing books, I hesitate not to say that I could not have been as satisfactorily served anywhere else. On one or two different occasions I have been obliged to make selections for prizes at bookstores, where I have had great difficulty in procuring what would give satisfaction.

The disestablishment of the Depository, while it might enrich the Toronto bookseller, would I feel satisfied, exert a very baneful influenc on the country at large, and would result either in the dissemination of objectionable literature, or in what would be even more probable the non-dissemination of books of any kind for libraries and prizes among our country schools.

Rev. Thomas Garrett, Inspector, County Russell.—In reply to your circular inquiring "whether or not" Mr. Adam, has correctly represented inspectors views and motives in "Replies," I have the honour to state that previous to receiving this circular from you, I had carefully read that letter of Mr. Adam's, and especially that part on page nine, where the writer labours to cast an obloquy upon inspectors who, according to his assumption, were not wise enough or honourable enough to shrink from reply to an honest enquiry. I cannot see anything in all Mr. Adam's letter that does not require to be proven before it should be credited. Not knowing Mr. Adam, I can only suppose that he has written from effects of malice prepense, or at random; however it be, his timorous style on page nine, makes one think that he has taken Dr. Ryerson for his Jacob, and the Inspectors for his Israel, and then in my humble opinion, he has neither blessed them at all nor cursed them at all, though he has laboured hard and ostensibly—his object was not to bless. As to whether Mr. Adam has correctly represented my views and motives, I must say that the unmanly manner in which it is implied, that the view was simply the "100 per cent," and the motive or incentive "Dr. Ryerson's intended first warning," is very far wide of the truth.

In my reply referred to, and on page 25 of the Chief Superintendant's Annual Report of 1871, there will be found sufficient to satisfy any unprejudiced mind, of the necessity for the existence, the continuance and the improvement of an educational depository affording facilities and advantages to our public schools, which we cannot attain at the book stores, even of those clamoring for monopoly, &c., this was my view in writing; and my motive *pro bono publico*. I leave the onus of proof contra on Mr. Adam.

John Aquew, Esq., M.D., Inspector, Co. Frontenac.—Mr. Adam in his pamphlet on the Educational Depository recently presented to the Premier of Ontario, has misrepresented to him my views and motives, and has insulted all the Inspectors of the Province, who have given their views on this much vexed question, by intimating that the circular sent to the Inspectors was intended to operate like a "first warning" to the French journals, to enforce obedience to "bureaucratic demands"

My views were given conscientiously, and from many years' experience.

Should the Government and the Members of the Legislature see fit to abolish the Depository, the cause of education of this Province would be retarded for many years to come, which state of things every true lover of his country and of education would not desire to see.

Frederick Burrows, Esq., Inspector, Lennox and Addington.—I beg to state, that the opinions given in my letter are those which I have frequently expressed publicly, and they are such as I would entertain and freely express, even though I had no official connection with the Educational Department.

G. D. Platt, Esq., Inspector, County Prince Edward.—In response to your recent circular on the "Educational Depository Question," I have the honour to state that, in my opinion, the representation of Mr. G. Mercer Adam, regarding the almost unanimous testimony of the Public School Inspectors of Ontario, is very wide of the truth, as every impartial reader must admit; and, as far as I am aware, this mass of evidence has been obtained without the slightest hint of pressure on the part of the Department, but as a purely voluntary expression of the deliberate and matured conviction of a class of men whose opportunities for forming a correct judgment in the matter, are most favourable. I have to reiterate my belief that the continuance of the Depository is essential to the highest welfare of our schools, and the protection of trustees from the impositions of selfish vendors of school supplies.

John Johnston, Esq., Inspector, South Hastings.—In reply to your circular, I beg leave to state most emphatically that G. Mercer Adam has not correctly represented to the Attorney-General my views and motives in writing my reply in respect to the depository. My views, as expressed in your annual report, are correct, having been founded on many years' experience. During 14 years as a teacher, many prize books were sent from the Depository, *giving the trustees, myself, and all concerned, the very best satisfaction as regards price and reading matter, the Department in all cases making the selection*; and I can prove that the Depository sells educational works at least 40 per cent less than some of the booksellers, and all books are sold much less than they sell them. It will be a sorry day for the schools and pupils of the Province, should the Government and members of the Legislature see fit to abolish the Depository; but I know they have too good sense to do any such thing.

The part of Mr. Adam's letter referred to is a gross libel on what I said, as embodied in your report; and, Sir, you will soon see that it is untrue in regard to the other Inspectors.

E. Scarlett, Esq., Inspector, Co. Northumberland.—In a pamphlet lately sent to the Attorney-General, the Honourable Oliver Mowat, from G. M. Adam, Esq., Bookseller and Publisher in Toronto, he attributes the silence of those who did not respond to the circular sent them relative to the Educational Depository, to fear of "bureaucratic" interference. I beg to say that the allusion of Mr. Adam's in this respect, is not only impertinent but is insulting to those Inspectors who chose to remain silent on the question. My reason for not answering the circular referred to was, that I believed, and still do believe, that no two persons unbiased by selfishness could hold antagonistic opinions regarding the vast amount of good done to this Province through the Educational Depository in Toronto.

Perhaps one of the greatest evils of this age, is the dissemination of cheap immoral red-covered literature by unscrupulous book-agents. It is an important question that suggests itself to every person who has thought at all on the subject, and who wishes the moral purification of our world, how is this evil to be successfully counteracted? I think, that the answer is simple to every unprejudiced mind, that no other means are so well adapted to supply our people with entertaining, instructive and wholesome reading, as the Educational Depository, managed as it is in accordance with a system the most economic and efficient.

I would sincerely regret any step taken by the Legislature of our country that would in the least cripple the Depository, as it has so largely and frugally supplied the growing wants of the Schools of this Province with School Libraries, Maps and Apparatus, since it was first called into existence by that wisdom and patriotism which originated our admirable School System, fostered it with paternal solicitude, and brought it to its present state of effectiveness.

James C. Brown, Esq., Inspector, Co. Peterborough.—I not only approve of the 100% grant, but of the Depository itself. I am confident that the schools of the county could in no other way be so well supplied with maps, charts, globes and illustrations generally, as through the agency of the Depository. This is my opinion; impugn it whoso list.

Henry Reazin, Esq., Inspector, West Victoria.—I looked upon your circular as asking for an honest expression of opinion from the Inspectors. As such I replied to it, and in language that I think Mr. Adam ought not to have misunderstood.

James McBrien, Esq., Inspector, Co. Ontario.—In reply to your circular regarding the Educational Depository question, I have the honour to state that I have read Mr. G. M. Adam's letter to the Hon. Oliver Mowat three times, carefully, and feel constrained to say that he has traduced my motives and misrepresented my views, hence he is not a man.

D. Fotheringham, Esq., Inspector, North York.—In reply to your circular enquiring if Mr. G. M. Adam had, in his pamphlet to Mr. Mowat, correctly represented my views and motives in regard to the Depository as expressed in a note from me, and published by you in your Annual Report for 1872, I have the honour to say

that I did not evade the question at issue on any ground or motive assigned by Mr. Adam. Being at the time exceedingly busy, I did not feel able to give the commercial aspect of the Depository so thorough a consideration as to venture an opinion upon the correctness of the principle upon which it is conducted, and confined myself to giving the facts or statistics of P. S. Libraries in my division of this county, and expressing the opinion that it is essential to the protection of our Schools from bad literature that the Department should sanction or approve of all books to be put into the hands of the youth of the Province.

When Mr. Adam asserts that no support is given by the Inspectors to the Depository, or, as he styles it, *the book shop*, the assertion is so contrary to the fact, that he damages his position materially, and it becomes so apparent a piece of misrepresentation that a mere reference to some of their communications must convince any one that he has either not read them, or has been blinded by his foregone conclusions.

For my own part, I do not see how the Schools of the Province could have been supplied with books, maps and apparatus as they have been, without the Depository; and if the trade has now reached a stage when it can, under adequate supervision, supply School requisites as economically as the Depository, there can be no ground for objecting on the one hand to the continuance of the Depository, or, on the other hand, to throwing, as Mr. Mowat proposes, the supply of books and apparatus open to the trade, with this provision, that no work shall be introduced into any library or School without the sanction of competent authority.

D. J. McKinnon, Esq., Inspector, Co. Peel.—I have the honour to state, in reply to your circular, referring to the Depository question, and Mr. G. M. Adam's letter thereon, that if I did not in my former letter on this subject, express a very decided opinion that the "Government book-shop" should be maintained, *I can do so now*. If trustees were all as good judges of books as they generally are of ploughs, or if all booksellers were as honest as no other men are, the half and half scheme now proposed by the Government might do: but taking men and things as we find them, I am of opinion that it will be impossible to prevent fraud except by the institution of a system of supervision over purchases, which would cost ten times the trouble and expense of the Depository. Library books, maps, &c., might be examined by the Inspector at his semi-annual visit, and the invoices certified to, but as for prize books, how are trustees to tell which amongst a dozen or two editions of, say Scott's Poems, is the one catalogued in the *Journal of Education?* How easy it would be for a bookseller, if one could be found capable of doing such a thing, to substitute a $1.25 book, for one sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction at $1.50. The abuse would soon become so crying, that the Government would be obliged to withdraw the 100% grant entirely.

You will pardon me if I decline to notice Mr. Adam's insinuations, as to the *motives* which actuated the Inspectors of this Province in expressing the opinions they did, with reference to the Depository. If the members of the Legislature agree with Mr. Adam, they had better sweep out of existence such a set of "reeds shaken with the wind."

Robert Little, Esq., Inspector, County Halton.—I have read with care the remarks of Mr. Adam brought under my notice. They may be divided into two classes.

1st. Those relating to the views taken by the Inspectors relating to the Depository question.

2nd. Those relating to their views of Dr. Hodgins' circular of the 15th April last.

In regard to the first point, I may say that as I understood the circular, the question submitted to the Inspectors did not relate to the policy of continuing the 100 % grant at all, but to the policy of supplying our Public and High Schools with School requisites through the Agency of the Depository. The wording of the circular ("The policy of supplying, &c., from the Depository having been questioned,") justifies the view I took of the question. My remarks were accordingly based on the assumption that the 100 % grant would be maintained whether School requisites should be obtained through the Agency of the Depository, or through other agencies. I therefore did not even refer to "the maintenance of the 100 % grant." It was not in my view in the question. My opinion was given in the following words: "Instead of abolishing the Depository, greater facilities should be given to its working."

In regard to the second point, I consider it an unworthy imputation on the honour and independence of the Inspectors, to ascribe the views elicited from them on this question, as having been obtained by coercion in the shape of "a first warning" from the Department.

In the passage quoted from Mr. Adam's pamphlet, my views and motives are both misrepresented.

J. H. Smith Esq., Inspector, Co. Wentworth.—I have the honour to state in reply to your circular that the views that I expressed, in reply to a circular, from Dr. Hodgins, concerning the Depository, are such, that I think no person need misunderstand them.

In regard to my motives, I may say that I was neither actuated by fear on the one hand, nor by favour on the other, but simply by a desire to give you the views of Trustees and Teachers, who are at present actively engaged in carrying out the details of our School Law.

R. Harcourt, Esq., M.A., Inspector, Co. Haldimand.—I received your circular *in re* Mr. Mercer Adam's crusade against the Book Depository, you ask (*A*) for views and (*B*) for motives, in reference to my reply printed by you in a pamphlet. My motive was merely to give you what I deemed to be the information your circular called for, without suppression, extenuation or exaggeration. In writing my reply, the "view" contained in it was mainly based on the 100 per cent condition. Of course I had no idea of the manner in which the Government intended to "re-organize" the Depository. I deem their scheme just, and think that whether it will work with advantage or not, will depend principally upon the action of School Trustees. I regard your maps, tablets &c. as good, and *know* that many trustees in their anxiety to purchase what they call cheap articles, would be content with something quite inferior. Competition may place it within their reach to buy inferior goods, and this I regard as the weak point in the proposed scheme. Mr. Adam would have acted both more wisely and more charitably towards the Inspectors had he not made use of the phrase "more outspoken than their colleagues."

J. J. Wadsworth, Esq., M.A., Inspector, County Norfolk.—In reply to your circular regarding Mr. Adam's statements, I have only to say that his insinuations are contemptible. No reasonable man can believe that moral cowardice prevented 58 inspectors out of 60 from denouncing the Depository. Mr. Adam knows very well that the inspectors do not hold their positions at the pleasure of the Department, and that their salaries are fixed by statute. I have not yet had time to read all my fellow Inspectors' General Reports for 1872, but I know that in those I have read, the complaints of the people reflecting on the policy of the Department, are as fully set forth as anything else. What is equally important, the Department has in all cases, so far as my experience goes, published the reports *entire*. There has been no garbling. Censure and praise of the school system have alike been given to the public. Mr. Adam never made a more foolish and discreditable blunder, than when he sought to impute dishonourable motives to a class of public officers who, thanks to the wisdom of the Legislature, are placed above the necessity of resorting to misrepresentation and chicanery.

James H. Ball, Esq., M.A., Inspector, Co. Welland.—Mr. Adam has *not* correctly represented to the Honourable Attorney-General my views in regard to the policy of maintaining the Depository of the Educational Department.

In my reply to your circular, I stated that "I regard that policy as a very judicious one, and one that ought to be maintained as part of our educational system;" and I do not feel at all responsible for Mr. Adam's assurance to the Hon. Attorney-General, so far as it affects myself, that the letters of the Inspectors give no support to the Depository.

As to the "moral courage" of the Inspectors, I am not aware whether Mr. Adam was requested by the Hon. Attorney-General, for the information of himself and the Legislature, to give his views. Suffice it to say, however, that I have no idea the Inspectors are so tame a body of people as his reflections imply; and that I regard his effusions as gross effrontery.

I also maintain that the Inspectors are in a position to pass an unbiassed judgment on Public School questions, at least in the matter of the Depository. For myself, I gave my views not only as an Inspector whose duty it is to consult the interests of the schools under his charge, in any action he may take affecting them, but also as a Canadian who feels an interest in the welfare of his country and would desire so to act as would be most to his country's good; and were I called upon by the Hon. Attorney-General to express my views both as an Inspector and as a Canadian, I would *ex animo et corde*, say—BY ALL MEANS MAINTAIN THE DEPOSITORY.

John B. Somerset, Esq. Inspector, Co. Lincoln.—I have the honour to state in reply to your circular, containing an extract from Mr. G. M. Adam's letter to Hon. Mr. Mowat, that I cannot see any ground whatever for Mr. Adam's assumption that the circular of the Department to Inspectors regarding the Depository "was intended to operate like a 'first warning' to French journals to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands." I am quite certain that it was not so regarded by those to whom it was sent, and I fail to see, from reading the replies to that circular, that the Inspectors

either surrendered their convictions or preserved a timid silence on the question.

M. J. Kelly, Esq., M.D., Inspector, Co. Brant.—In reply to your circular touching the pamphlet "on the Educational Depository," addressed to the Honourable Oliver Mowat, M.P.P., Attorney-General and Premier of Ontario, by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, a Toronto Bookseller, I have the honour to state that Mr. G. Mercer Adam in the flippant and gratuitously impertinent remarks contained in your circular, and quoted from his pamphlet, misrepresents nearly *in toto* the "point" and "value" of my observations on the "Depository," as published in the Annual Report of the Chief Superintendent for 1872. The maintenance of the Depository was the subject of my remarks almost exclusively, its maintenance a barrier, among other things, to the introduction into our Schools and School Libraries of inferior books by irresponsible Booksellers. In writing my reply I had no other view or motive.

Rev. James Kilgour, Inspector, No. 1 Wellington.—To your circular I beg leave to reply that, having read Mr. Adam's letter addressed to the Hon. O. Mowat, M.P.P., I cannot refrain from characterizing the imputation made in said letter to me, as one of the inspectors, as anything short of a gross and unwarrantable slander. I affirm most decidedly that Mr. G. M. Adam has misrepresented in said letter of his, both my views and motives concerning the reply written by me in 1873, in answer to your queries in connection with the Depository. "The book shop," as the Depository is contemptuously styled, has done an excellent work in connection with our Public Schools, and I am still in favour of its being continued.

I may state here that the board of examiners for this county, five in number, met one evening last week to consider the new Bill, being "an Act to amend the Public and High School Laws of Ontario," and reported the results to the Hon. O. Mowat, M.P.P. They, the board, unanimously concluded to suggest among other things, that clauses 69 to 71, inclusive, of said Bill, *be struck out.* This meeting was neither held, nor the suggestion recommended, on account of "First warning to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands."

Respected sir, I sympathise with you and the other gentlemen of the department who are so ruthlessly and wantonly slandered, without your having the opportunity of vindicating yourselves to the country, which I believe you could do if Government had or would appoint a committee to investigate the working of the Depository.

A. D. Fordyce, Esq., Inspector, No. 2 Wellington.—In reply to your circular respecting Mr. Adam's pamphlet and subject involved,—the few remarks made by me, and to be found in the correspondence on the subject of the Depository under the head of remarks of the Rev. J. Kilgour, (our letters having been accidentally transposed,) expressed my honest convictions of the necessity of such authorized supervision of works intended for use in the manner indicated, and my unbiased opinion of the maintenance of such a Depository, being a public benefit.

Thomas Gordon Esq., Inspector, North Grey.—I have to say with reference to the "Depository" question, which is being so keenly discussed at the present time, that my views are entirely in favour of its maintenance. From what I have been able to glean of the views of School section Trustees on the subject, they are in favour of its being continued for the following reasons. They can obtain the supplies which they require with certainty and with a minimum of trouble; they are relieved from the (to them) onerous task of making suitable selections of prize books, when they wish to obtain such, as they have only to intimate to the Department the general nature of their requirements, in order to have a selection made for them. They know beforehand the exact cost of the maps and apparatus they desire to obtain, and they have an assurance that prices will not be raised upon them, should such an exigency as a somewhat short supply arise.

The two first of these considerations should receive great weight in favour of so large a body of unpaid public servants, as constitute the School corporations of the Province.

Among School Trustees who have given the subject any consideration, the crusade against the Depository is regarded as having originated in a desire on the part of the book trade, to secure the abolition of the only institution in the country which can exercise any control over the price to be charged for school books and apparatus, and which can prevent such price from being raised beyond a reasonable paying limit. I have myself heard booksellers complain of being obliged to sell books containing so much matter as some of the books do, at the price which they can now charge for them, and this complaint was not based on an allegation, that there was not a profit to the seller, but on the assertion that the profit was not what they thought large enough on such books.

Then with respect to the Depository, unfairly competing with the trade, it seems to me that in a country which has adopted the principle of free public schools, such an argument is a blow to the whole system. Private schools and Academies have at least an equal right to complain that the free-school system is an interference with their just rights and that therefore it should be abolished. And yet, what sane man who knows the good being wrought, and the adaptation of the means to the end desired, and who is not altogether under the influence of personal and self-seeking considerations, would think for a moment that the public advantage must yield to the demand of private individuals?

It is difficult enough now to induce people to provide pupils at school with a proper and sufficient supply of books and other necessaries. What the difficulty would be, were the check of the Depository on extravagant prices to be removed, who can foresee? I am sure that in my part of the country, the abolition of the Depository would be regarded as a grave mistake, and as a serious public misfortune.

This letter has not been written "in obedience to bureaucratic demands," *none such were ever made upon me,* but in order that I should remove any seeming reason for classing me among those who are said to have shielded themselves "by silence on vexed questions." I hold myself personally responsible for the views which I have expressed, and should have expressed them sooner, had I seen the necessity which I now see.

W. Ferguson, Esq., Inspector, South Grey.—In reply to your circular I beg to state that my views and convictions of the great utility of the Educational Depository and the benefits conferred on the country through it, are still unchanged.

I may further state that the expression of my views was then given, as now, without even the remotest idea of constraint by the Department in asking the question, or of servility on my part in replying thereto.

Geo. W. Ross, Esq., M.P., Inspector, No. 1 Lambton.—Your request in regard to my statements about the Book Depository duly received. The opinion given some months ago is my opinion still. I hope this will be satisfactory.

A. Dewar, Esq., Inspector, North Huron.—My late reply, approving of the continuance of the "Educational Depository," can by no possible means be interpreted to refer merely to the maintenance of the 100 per cent. grant, as stated by Mr. G. M. Adam in his pamphlet addressed to the Hon. Oliver Mowat.

Many of our teachers are young and consequently possess little acquaintance with general literature. Many of our rural trustees, good men too, would be lost quite as much as young teachers in making a selection of books, suitable in every way, from the pages of a catalogue including all kinds of literature. For these reasons, I considered then, as I do now, that to abolish the Depository, as proposed by Mr. Adam, would be a great error.

The only motive I had in sustaining the Depository was simply a desire to prevent the spread of literature of a doubtful character.

John R. Miller Esq., Inspector, South Huron.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, having reference to the statements recently made by Mr. Mercer Adam to the Honourable the Attorney-General.

As I am forty miles from home, and have not my reply to your former circular, I cannot particularly refer to it. However, I have no hesitation in saying that my reply was frankly given without any pressure brought to bear upon me by yourself or any other person, and that my remarks were the result of personal experience, extending over a period of twelve years, during which time I have had occasion to do business with the Depository for my Trustees and others.

When your circular was received, I certainly considered that you solicited an expression of my opinion, as an experienced educator, whether it was advisable to retain the Educational Depository, in connection with our Educational system or not, and my answer was, that I thought it to be essentially necessary to the proper carrying out of our work, and at the same time gave illustrations to prove the decided advantages to be gained by buying at the Department.

My only motive in making such a statement, was for the benefit of our schools in particular, and the public in general. The Educational Depository has done good service in the past, is now doing good service to the country, and I sincerely trust that nothing will be done to curtail that usefulness. If the work of providing apparatus is permitted to pass away from the Department, to be taken up by any and every one, then good-bye to all uniformity, which has not been secured to such a great extent, and which was so difficult to secure. With reference to the books, my experience has al-

ways impressed me with the fact, that those in charge made most admirable selections.

In conclusion, I regret very much that Mr. Adam's estimate of the Inspectors of this Province is so very low, but he may rest assured, that they possess more independence than he gives them credit for, and further, that it is their independent spirit that has cut him so severely.

William Alexander, Esq., Inspector, Co. Perth.—I have just read a letter full of gross misrepresentations and evil surmisings, from Mr. M. Adam to the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Attorney-General. I observe that Mr. Adam, in this letter, does not attempt to give a truthful description of the system he denounces, but endeavours to forestall the opinion of the representatives of the people by using general epithets of reproach, and signals of alarm.

My attention has been more particularly directed to certain statements found on the 8th and 9th pages, and which are summarized in the margin as "irrelevant opinions quoted" and "dealings with the Inspectors." Here we find him saying that "The letters of the Inspectors relate to the maintenance of the 100 per cent. grant, of which they unanimously approve." So far as it goes, this is true, and as Mr. Adam recommends the same, he must have been pleased with this opinion of the Inspectors. In the next sentence he states that "No support is given to the book-shop at all." Why, then, these letters fully endorse the views of Mr. Adam. They are just such evidence as he wants. But why does he only re-publish one of them, Mr. Porter's? Why does he not publish all of them, or quote from them indiscriminately? Why, because when he wrote the statement quoted above, he was deliberately stating what he knew to be false—because he knew that no honest and intelligent man could draw any such inference from the letters of the Inspectors—because he knew that these letters advocated in very decided language the maintenance of the Depository or *book-shop* on its present footing, and pointed out that the abolition of the Depository would be regarded by the people of Ontario as a direct sacrifice of their interests for the prospective advantage of a few. It is unnecessary, however, for me to contradict this statement, as Mr. Adam himself contradicts it in the same sentence, where he says "two of them (the Inspectors), * * * * * have had the moral courage to denounce the whole system," and when he makes such honourable mention of the few Inspectors who declined or neglected to give any opinion on the subject.

The contemptible and contemptuous manner in which Mr. Adam speaks of all the other Inspectors, is no doubt attributable to his ignorance of the powers of the Chief Superintendent of Education, and the duties of the Council of Public Instruction. Had he any acquaintance with the school law, he would have known that no Inspector is under any constraint to maintain "silence on vexed questions," or to give "unconditional support to *equivocal* measures." Mr. Adam's interpretation of the circular sent to Inspectors, "that it was intended to operate like a *first warning* to the French journals, to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands," is as false as the construction he puts upon the Inspectors' letters. As I read this circular, it contains this one plain request. "He will thank you to give him the benefit of your observation and the results of your experience on this matter, with a view to submit them to the Executive Government and Legislature."

In this proper request, the suspicious soul of Mr. Adam discovers a daring attempt to gag the Inspectors of the Province, and to prevent an honest expression of their views, and he sneeringly states that *only two* have had the moral courage to resist this outrage.

No doubt Mr. Adam thinks that he did a clever thing in attempting to create an impression that this circular was of a dictatorial nature, and that the replies of the Inspectors were consequently mere echoes of the Departmental will, but without doubt, he will come to the conclusion before he sees the end of this matter, that "honesty is the best policy." Not one of the Inspectors whose opinions Mr. Adam affects to despise, but has more knowledge of the educational wants of the people, and their wishes in regard to the Depository, than Mr. Adam. And I believe that the views of the Inspectors as expressed in their letters to the Department will have far more weight with the Legislature than the letter of Mr. Adam, which in many particulars has not the merit of being true. In writing this letter, I desire not to charge Mr. Adam with that "pecuniary greed" which Mr. Porter says "is a very powerful motive," but to protest against his impudent attempt to misrepresent the almost unanimous opinion of the Inspectors of the Province on this subject.

A. F. Butler, Esq., Inspector, Co. Elgin.—I unhesitatingly state that Mr. G. Mercer Adam in his pamphlet to the Premier of Ontario, referring to the published letters of the Public School Inspectors, grossly misrepresents our views concerning the Depository. For proof, I ask any unprejudiced person to compare the tone and spirit of these letters with the statement of Mr. Adam,—"No support is given to the book-shop at all."

I believed then, as now, that the abolition of the Depository would be a great calamity to the Schools, and I further believe that any person who does not see in the above mentioned letters a mass of evidence strongly in favour of the continuance of the Depository, and of the maintenance of the government grant to this, and to this alone, must be blinded by self interest to the plain meaning of language.

James Bell, Esq., Inspector, South Essex.—In reply to your circular I beg leave to say as follows. For my own part I am not conscious of having, in my answer to your circular respecting the Depository, acted under intimidation, which appears to be implied in Mr. Adam's letter to have been the ruling motive with the Inspectors for the greater part. Mr. Adam appears to have left out of view the fact that County Councils appoint the Inspectors and may dismiss them at pleasure, without cause shown, whereas the Governor in Council (that is the Education Department) can dismiss them for misconduct and inefficiency alone, so that in view of the safety of his position an Inspector is likely to feel himself more dependent on the said County Council, that is on the popular voice, than on the Department of Public Instruction. Neither do I believe that any one connected with the Department would desire to insult the Inspectors by presenting to their minds a motive so degrading. I think I expressed no opinion on the main subject, other than in respect of its immediate bearing on the education of the young, unless that I ventured to observe that possibly the objection to the Depository advanced by dealers in books might in some measure be met by the observation that, by the taste for reading being encouraged by the Government bonus, a growing demand and a larger market for books are thereby created for the benefit of those interested in the sale of books.

T. Girardot, Esq., Inspector, North Essex.—As far as I am concerned, Mr. Mercer Adam, has entirely misrepresented my views in his pamphlet on the Education Depository. What I said about the Depository, I said in earnest conviction, and not to please the Department of Education; and I cannot but repeat that after my own experience in the matter, the Depository of books maps and apparatus, at the Education Office, has done and is still doing a great deal of good.

E. B. Harrison, Esq., Inspector, Co. Kent.—The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association will prove that, Inspectors, in common with High School Masters, and Public School Teachers, have been guided not by "bureaucratic demands," but by a sense of the duty they owe to the cause of education. It was in this sense, I sent my reply.

The Depository question has been frequently brought under my notice, in consequence of my long connection with the Public Schools of Ontario, and the result is, in view of exerting a beneficial influence at the most critical time in the lives of our children, so as to enable them to become thinking men, and thinking women, and preventing evils which would, in all probability, arise from the selections made by a majority of the Boards of Public School Trustees, from the catalogues or otherwise of competing Booksellers or their Agents. I consider the principle of maintaining a Provincial Educational Depository to be sound—faults in its details can be corrected.

W. Carlyle, Esq., Inspector, Co. Oxford.—I notice Mr. Adam, of Adam, Stevenson & Co., in his pamphlet "Reform in the Education Office," attempts to divest of its force the verdict rendered by a large number of Inspectors on the subject of maintaining the Book and Map Depository in connection with the Department.

I beg to state so far as I am concerned, that your circular was not regarded in any sense as *dictatorial*, but simply interrogative. The views embodied in my reply I held while teaching, and I still maintain their correctness. Mr. Adam's pamphlet is but an additional proof that what I stated is correct.

Professor Dupuis, Inspector, City of Kingston.—In reply to your letter, I have the honor to state, that with all due deference to Mr. Adam, I can boldly say, that not standing in any awe of the Department I had no *motive* in writing what I did, except that of stating what I candidly believed to be the *truth*.

J. E. Boyle, Esq., Inspector, City of London.—I am truly sorry to be called upon to notice the insulting remarks of Mr. Adam, in reference to the spirit of servility and the want of manly independence, he imputes to the Inspectors of the Province. To put ourselves upon our defence against such an attack as this—coarse, baseless and malicious—is doing too much honour to a character so essentially small; and so far as I can judge, this course is not required. If either the Members of the Ontario Government or those of the Legislature are inclined to take Mr. G. Mercer Adam's estimate of the Inspectors of this Province, then nothing that we can

say on our own behalf, is likely to change or modify, in the slightest degree, that estimate. On the other hand, if they have penetration enough to ascribe the insult offered to us to the proper motive, a vindication on our part is unnecessary. In either case, I am quite prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the people's Representatives, convinced that most of them will be able to place the proper value upon an attack of this kind, emanating from a quarter so unlikely to be disinterested.

In my reply to your circular, I expressed simply my own convictions, and I am really unaware that they have been influenced in my opinions by either favour, antipathy or prejudice. It is no duty of mine to defend the Inspectors generally, but I may venture to say, that in most cases their opinions are entitled to more weight on a question of this kind, than is that of Mr. Adam. The Inspectors have neither personal nor pecuniary interest at stake, Mr. Adam has both; the former are actuated by an honest desire to promote the cause of education in Ontario, the latter to promote his own business operations; the former see in the question at issue, only the good of the country, Mr Adam sees nothing beyond the gains of "My Firm."

There can be no difficulty therefore, in determining whose opinions, on a subject of this kind, are the more likely to be independent, and the more deserving of respect. But apart altogether from the question of independence, the Inspectors are certainly the more likely to understand the requirements of the country, the feelings of the people regarding the work of the Depository, and to form a correct estimate of the advantages of the system, judged exclusively by its results as an educational force or agency.

I am sorry I cannot indulge myself in a critical examination of the replies of the two gentlemen, who are complimented as being the only independent and outspoken among us. I feel sure, that a careful analysis of the Rev. Mr. Porter's letter would show a spirit pervading its every sentence, very [illegible] for the possession of which, Mr. Adam gives him credit. But the Rev. gentlemen is in safe hands when he is in yours, and there I shall have to leave him for the present.

Rev. Robert Torrance, Inspector, Town of Guelph.—In a letter addressed by Mr. Adam, to the Hon. Attorney-General Mowat, published in pamphlet form, under the title of "Reform in the Education Office," of which a copy has been sent me, I find on pages eight and nine, when dealing with the replies of Public School Inspectors, what I consider a most unjustifiable misrepresentation of my views and motives as one of those Inspectors. My judgment has long been that the Educational Depository is a most useful branch of the Department. To this conviction I have frequently given expression both publicly and privately. It is in no respect altered. I stated it lately at a meeting of the Board of Examiners for the County of Wellington, which had been called for the purpose of considering the School Bill, now before the Ontario Legislature, and at which a resolution was unaminously carried, disapproving of the sections of that Bill, proposing to change the present mode of conducting the Depository. In giving my opinion, I repudiate the charge of being in any degree influenced by "bureaucratic demands" to give "unconditional support to equivocal measures." Silence I have not maintained, the other alternative mentioned in the pamphlet; nor have I, in all my connection with the Education Department, extending over a period of many years, had any pressure made to bear on me to bias my judgment. It has always been honestly and independently formed and freely expressed when required.

Rev. E. Patterson M. A., Inspector, Town of Stratford.—In reply to your circular, I beg to say, that Mr. G. M. Adam in his pamphlet addressed to the Honourable Attorney-General of Ontario, has entirely misrepresented my views and motives, as stated in the answer which I returned to your circular of last April, in regard to the Educational Department. I said that in my opinion, the policy of supplying the Public and High Schools of the Province with library and prize books &c., through the Depository in connection with the Education Department, is a sound one, that its adoption has been the means of conferring a great boon upon the people at large, both parents and children, and that I should regret to see it interfered with by the Legislature.

Mr. Adam's assertion, that your former circular was intended as "a warning to enforce obedience" on the part of the Inspectors, to "bureaucratic demands, either by silence, or by unconditional support of equivocal measures, and that *many of them preferred the latter alternative*," sufficiently indicates that he regards the Inspectors as a time-serving body of men, and wholly destitute of that moral courage, which is essential to an independent expression of opinion. I am greatly mistaken if the Inspectors will [illegible] disposed to view his statement as insulting in the extreme. As far as I am personally concerned with it, I can assure him, that [illegible] drawn largely upon his imagination.

Rev. Thomas Henderson, Inspector, [illegible]—Mr Adam's pamphlet has been in my hands [illegible] paragraph so disrespectful to the department, and [illegible] which is quoted in your circular. In his attack [illegible] Depository, the writer has insulted a large number [illegible] pondents. If the Public School Inspectors [illegible] courage to express freely their opinions [illegible] the educational interests of our Province, they [illegible] unfit for the responsibilities of their vocation. I [illegible] peat my conviction that it is for the interest of [illegible] a Depository in connection with the Department [illegible] tion. As to motives, I am conscious of [illegible] for the promotion of sound education.

Rev. A. McCall, Inspector, Town of Chatham.—I have read the former communication on the subject, and [illegible] then gave expression, remain still unchanged. I [illegible] the information, at first as to the opinions of the Inspectors, was in good faith, solicited from regard to the educational interests of the country. My reply was dictated in that spirit. It [illegible] did not occur to me, that, the circular was intended [illegible] a "first warning." To me it seems clear beyond a doubt that [illegible] state of education in the Province, would be far [illegible] is, were it not for the encouragement given, and the [illegible] by the Government grant of 100 [illegible] for the supply of [illegible] maps, apparatus, prize books, and libraries. [illegible] availed themselves; [illegible] speed, [illegible] the result of the system. That so much has been accomplished is a sound [illegible] education.

If the proportions and [illegible] of the mind depend [illegible] provided [illegible] an abundant supply [illegible] easy of access to be deemed requisite, it [illegible] opportunity, in any system, and [illegible] educational system, is a great [illegible] part, how these advantages can be so easily and [illegible] as by a Depository, wisely regulated. To avoid [illegible] state that I subscribe cordially to the statements [illegible] "Note by the Education Department" [illegible] "Opinions of Experienced Educationists, &c."

James Stratton Esq., Inspector, Town of Peterboro'.—In [illegible] circular in the matter of the Depository controversy, I [illegible] that Mr. G. Mercer Adam's imputations against the Inspectors [illegible] ports, are without foundation. I [illegible] character of these gentlemen. He, for the most selfish purposes misrepresents them. So far as my report is concerned, there was no "enforced obedience," being entirely free to report what I considered would be for the benefit of the schools, and [illegible] tion for the Departmental officers, all of which was [illegible] restraint or fear. I am also free to state, that I [illegible] of Mr. Adam and the book trade in Toronto, are purely [illegible] and not dictated by any desire to benefit the country. I am fully persuaded that if his views succeed, the [illegible] few years, that an inferior class of books will be [illegible] and that the maps and apparatus kept in stock [illegible] will not be equal to those furnished by the Depository [illegible] tees and teachers will be imposed on, as the [illegible] best judges of those articles. The result of agitation [illegible] got up by Mr. Adam, is not as fully kept sight of [illegible] less cry about a Government book store.

Rev. George Bell, LL.D., Ex-Inspector, Toronto.—In reply to your circular, I beg to state that the [illegible] Mr. Adam's pamphlet does not correctly represent [illegible] reply to the circular sent to me on the subject of the Depository. I never understood that circular [illegible] "to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands [illegible] on vexed questions, or by unconditional support [illegible] measures." I have never considered myself [illegible] gation as these words express. On the contrary I [illegible] considered both the ability to form independent [illegible] perfect right freely to express them, as essential [illegible] of Local Superintendent or Inspector. During [illegible] years of my taking part in administering the [illegible] capacities, whether as a member of a County Board [illegible] prominent part in the discussions at County [illegible] pondence with the Department or in private [illegible] officials, I have *always* fully and freely [illegible] as fully and freely when these differed [illegible] with, those of the Chief Superintendent.

(APPENDIX B.)

V. MR. G. MERCER ADAM'S "SLANDERS."

To the Editor of the Mail.

SIR,—As you have inserted part of Mr. G. Mercer Adam's pamphlet to the Attorney-General, I will thank you to insert the following reply, addressed also to Hon. Mr. Mowat. I have sent a copy of my letter to the *Globe*, with a similar request.

Believe me, dear sir,
Very truly yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, 11th Feb.

To the Honourable Attorney-General Mowat, M.P.P.

SIR,—Having to-day obtained a copy of an extraordinary "Letter" (as the sequel will show) addressed to you on behalf of the "book trade," by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, a bookseller of this city, I desire to say a few words in regard to that part of it which refers to myself.

In these [illegible] multiplied and undiscriminate "slander," few men in a position [illegible] hope to escape. Mr. G. Mercer Adam, having [illegible] to the Department will show) persistently but unsuccessfully pressed some of his wonderfully cheap wares [illegible] others before, hence upon the Education Department, has turned upon me as the supposed author of his wrongs; and, in order to sustain the bad and selfish cause which he has espoused, he has applied language to me for which there is no foundation or warrant.

Not content with imposing upon you (as will be fully proved at the proper time) a tissue of misrepresentation as well as "fiction" and "romance," he ventures upon a charge of "corruption" (so favourite a term with certain writers) against the Education Department, and seeks to involve me in it.

The writer of this "Letter," in his laboured attempt to substantiate his disreputable charge, counts up with great fervor, as my income, not only every penny which I have received for years, but every penny which any member of my family may have lawfully and honourably obtained, after having given full value for it (as the Parliamentary documents from which he quotes would abundantly prove). If every man's income for services rendered by himself were thus summed up, many would be astonished to find how rich they were, and the income tax would also be greatly benefited by the discovery. Mr. Adam, in this connection, has found it convenient to suppress the fact that five years ago, owing to a pressure which Mr. Blake brought to bear upon the Government, and probably prompted from this same quarter,) my salary was without notice (and against the strong remonstrance of members of the House and one of its committees) suddenly reduced five hundred dollars ($500) a year. To compensate for this loss and manifest injustice, the Hon. Attorney-General Macdonald authorized me to perform extended inquiry, as was his manner) certain map revision, &c., and he agreed to pay a reduced price for it.

I can, therefore, tell the writer of this "Letter" and the "Trade," that every cent of income which I receive, has either been passed by Order in Council for payment, or has been directly authorized by the Attorney-General, for the time being. Further, that every fraction which I, or any one belonging to me, ever received, is duly recorded and audited in the proper office, either in Ottawa or in Toronto.

Mr. Adam may, in his zeal, attempt to impose fiction upon you as fact; but he will scarcely be able, I think, to make you accept the conclusion which his misstatements of facts as well as the insinuation, (on page four of his pamphlet,) imply, that the Government, the audit office, and the Attorney-General were parties to the "corruption" which he alleges. I defy him to prove his charge, and until he does so, I hold him accountable as a traducer.

I have lived more than forty years in Canada, and nearly thirty in this city, have occupied before coming here, positions of trust and responsibility in the most respectable mercantile establishments, and I defy Mr. Adam, or any man in Canada, to lay his finger on a single act of mine in these matters in regard to which I would not challenge the most rigid scrutiny. I will not, therefore, allow my name and my personal honour to be smirched by any man, especially by one who can only justify his unmanly assaults by most selfish and unworthy motives.

What does Mr. Adam care for the character or want of character of the Education, or any other Department, so long as he can, by damaging it, hope to place himself in a better position to pocket a few paltry dollars more, than he could otherwise do with all the pressure which he has been able to bring to bear on this matter?

Let the Government, if they please, by all means, sweep away [illegible] of an "interested" [illegible] who [illegible] others for years hitherto, without success, employed every possible means, both through a powerful press, and by means of the personal influence of leading men, to effect a purely selfish object.

It is not my province to enter into the detail of Mr. Adam's pamphlet. That will no doubt be effectively done by the head of the Department. I may say, however, and I know well of what I affirm, that the Department will be able to disprove every material statement which Mr. Adam has ventured to put forth. I am glad that his loose gossip, and the slander of years, has at length been reduced to writing. It can now be met, while in the other form it could never be reached. But I may say that some of the most important of his statements never had any foundation in fact, and are even the reverse of truth.

I may, if occasion offers, address you respectfully on the subject of the anomalous and unsatisfactory position and prospects of the Civil Services of Ontario, of which, I believe, I am one of the oldest, if not the oldest, member in Toronto. It is too much the fashion to regard these gentlemen as a target for every man's arrow—that because they are *paid* "officials" and "servants" they must therefore sit silent under every indignity and be subject to be continually and attacked as certain parties may choose to indulge in. It is time that that species of unmanly warfare should be resisted, though it cannot be prevented. To the head of the Government the Civil Service has, however, a right to look for protection in such matters, and I trust, too, that its interests and future efficiency will not be overlooked in any measure, which I understand you propose to devise on the subject.

Believe me, my dear sir,
Very respectfully yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, Feb. 10.

VI. MR. G. MERCER ADAM AND MR. LOVELL.

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—I regret that I accidently overlooked one portion of Mr. G. Mercer Adam's slanderous attack in my letter of yesterday.

He says:—

"One of the chief officials, enjoying the special favour of the Council, actually sold his copyright to a publisher for a good round sum, but when the caprice or intrigues of those who move the wheels of this machine originated the order for the unconditional sacrifice of their education and property, the same publisher was made to surrender the right he had acquired, *virtually, to the official from whom he had made the purchase.*"

My reply to this "slander" is threefold

First.—The "caprice and intrigues" to which Mr. G. M. Adam refers were fully discussed and exposed, as he knows well, in the famous "Brown-Campbell crusade against the Educational Department," published in 1866. Nor are these influences dormant yet against this same "educational property."

Secondly.—The surrendered copyright belongs to the Council, with whose property, proceedings and decisions, I have nothing to do, *and that in no shape or form have I the slightest interest in or control over a single book sanctioned or controlled by the Council.*

Thirdly.—Personally and privately I opposed as strongly as it was proper for me to do the surrender of these copyrights.

Lastly.—So strong is my sense of the high character and honourable dealing of Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal, to whom Mr. G. M. Adam refers—that were it in my power I would have freely presented him with the copyright of any book which I may have written at his suggestion. As it was, the "round sum" referred to would have been much rounder were it not for my personal appreciation of Mr. Lovell's enterprise, zeal, and sterling worth. I have the assured conviction—knowing him as I do, though I have not exchanged a word with him on the subject—that Mr. Lovell would repudiate with scorn the base insinuation which Mr. G. M. Adam has made against me in this matter.

Believe me,
Very truly yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, Feb. 12.

VII. MR. G. MERCER ADAM'S "PRESSURE."

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—Mr. G. M. Adam seeks to break the force of my statement, which the Chief Superintendent reiterates in your paper of to-day, with proof of charges "persistently" but unsuccessfully *pressed*

some of his wonderfully cheap wares (like others before him) upon the Educational Department," by showing that I sent to him two for a list of the books *published by his firm*. The two things are totally different. They have not the slightest connection with each other. The two transactions had even no sort of connection with each other in point of *time*, for a year had elapsed between them. The "lists" were sent for, in *August* 1872, while Mr. Adam's own letter wishing to become an "intermediate agency" of the Department with England was dated in September, 1873. In the matter of the lists, Mr. Adam was treated precisely the same as every other *original publisher* of books. Similar applications for lists with prices, before ordering books are sent to every publisher in Canada, the United States, and England. In the same way we have ordered the *original publications* of Mr. McMullen and Mr. Wyllie, of Brockville, Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, as well as Mr. Maclear, and Messrs. Campbell & Son, of Toronto, and wherever else [illegible] *a book* in Canada, &c.

In that way only can we have "*direct dealings*" with original publishers, and obtain their books. But this is a very different thing from prompting a man, or suggesting to him, to become the "intermediate agency"—"a commission merchant, in fact"—for the purchase of the books of other publishers. This is the essential characteristic of an "intermediate agency," and has nothing whatever to do with the buying from him of *what he alone publishes*, and which could only be obtained from him on favourable terms.

As to the special case of Mr. Adam's publications being required, one of them were asked for by parties wishing to get prizes, &c., and one or more was already on our lists. We had, therefore, before purchasing them to write to him for lists; and as parties desired the books, we had to write to him again,—as we supposed that the first memo. had miscarried.

One of the very objections urged by Mr. Adam is that we have "little *direct* dealings" with English publishers, whereas that is the very principle on which we have acted *with all publishers* from the beginning; and that is the sole reason why we sent to Mr Adam, and to other publishers in Canada and elsewhere for lists. Thus I distinctly stated to Mr. Adam himself when resisting his "pressure" to become the very thing which he has denounced viz., "an intermediate agency." This in my letter of the 25th of September last, in reply to one written on the 18th by himself, (without even to the semblance of a "pressure" such as he insinuates,) I said "that, as we are in communication with the English publishers ourselves, we are not in a position to order books except from them *direct*. Our invariable rule is to order only from the individual publishers, unless in rare and special cases." That I could have brought a "pressure" on him to sell, and then at the same time to write such a letter to him without remonstrance, is too absurd to be further discussed. He did, however, write next day, but only to make a renewal of his application to act as "a commission merchant in fact" for over "a hundred English publishers..."

Very truly yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, Feb 12.

VIII. MAP-MOUNTING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—With reference to a statement in your paper this morning over the signature of G. Mercer Adam, as follows: "But if we could get behind the scenes and ascertain how much of the $5,624.60 paid one man for map-mounting actually went into the map-mounter's pocket, and how much of it was extracted from him by the way of percentage, or the remuneration of other favoured members 'of officials' families,'" I have the honour to reply, and am prepared to make affidavit that there is not one word of truth in this statement. I have never paid one farthing for any such purpose. I have mounted maps for the Department for about twenty years, and have given full value for all moneys received, as my invoices will show. A percentage or discount has frequently been deducted by the officers of the Department for fluctuations in the cotton market, but this has always been done on the face of the invoices, and I have only received from the Treasury Department the net sums after these deductions have been made. I may further state that for many years I have worked for nearly all the gilders and map-mounters, booksellers, &c., in Toronto; but, owing to the great amount of work done, the prices charged to the Department have been, in consequence, a little lower than the prices charged to the trade.

I. B. CARTER.

Toronto, 19th Feb., 1874.

IX. REPORT ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BY A LARGE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

At the request of the Chief Superintendent of Education, a Committee of twenty three, out of eighty two members of the Legislative Assembly, the return of [illegible] was appointed to consider the suggestions which he had [illegible] in his two last official reports, respecting certain amendments to the Grammar and Common School Laws; also to inquire into the management and working of the Education Department.

Various attacks and imputations have been made in past years against the Chief Superintendent and others in the management of the Department, and he was anxious, before retiring from its administration, that the most thorough investigation should be made into the working of the Department by Representatives of the people. The leaders of both parties in the Assembly agreed to the selection and appointment of a large Committee from both sides of the House, and on the 10th of November, "On motion of the Hon. Attorney-General Macdonald," (as we learn from the "Votes and Proceedings" of the House of Assembly,) "a Select Committee was appointed to examine into the working of the Common and Grammar School System of Ontario, together with the Department of Public Instruction, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report thereon.

The following is the report of that Committee, presented, received and ordered to be printed by the Legislative Assembly, the day before the close of the Session. This report is an ample vindication of the Chief Superintendent, and all who have assisted him, from the imputations long and recklessly thrown upon them by a portion of the public press and other parties; an unquestionable testimony to the fidelity, efficiency and economy with which the Department of Public Instruction has been conducted in its various branches and details.

REPORT OF THE COMMON AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly, Ont.

The Select Committee appointed to examine into the working of the Common and Grammar School System of Ontario, together with the Department of Public Instruction, beg leave to present their Report:

Your Committee have considered the provisions of the law respecting Common and Grammar Schools, and adopted certain resolutions for the amendment thereof, which have [illegible] Bills numbers 119 and 129, now before your honourable House.

Some progress has been made in investigating the management and usefulness of Upper Canada College, but owing to the lateness of the session and the number of persons to be examined and documents to be considered, the Committee will not be able to report thereon this session. They have also procured returns and other useful information, which have been printed under the order of your honourable House for the use of members.

The Committee visited the Education Office, and examined the system of management pursued there, and appointed a sub-committee for the more careful and extended investigation of that department of the educational system. The result of the labour of that Committee is embodied in their report as adopted and approved by your Committee and herewith submitted.

Your Committee have to congratulate [illegible] tent and efficiency of its educational system, [illegible] state of usefulness mainly by the indefatigable [illegible] and venerable Chief Superintendent, the Reverend Doctor Ryerson, seconded by the Council of Public Instruction, and a [illegible] efficient staff of officers, together with [illegible] by the respresentatives of the people [illegible] in all its branches.

Your Committee are also much indebted to the Chief Superintendent for the great assistance given to the Committee in pursuing their inquiries; and it is matter [illegible] tee, that the time at their disposal, owing to the many [illegible] its members in the discharge of other legislative duties, [illegible] vented the preparation of an extended report [illegible] embraced in their inquiries.

All which is respectfully [illegible]

M. C. CAMERON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
January 19th, 1875.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND DEPOSITORY.

To the Honorable the Educational Committee.

The sub-Committee appointed to examine into the internal management of the Educational Department, report :—

That in undertaking the duties assigned to them, they first determined to make a thorough examination into the mode of conducting the financial department.

Your Committee find that the system adopted by the Department is of so thorough and complete a character, that no funds can by any possibility be received without being checked by proper officers, whose several duties require them to make entries in various books, through which every item can readily be traced.

They find that all moneys received by the Department are regularly deposited to the credit of the Government, with the exception of moneys intended to be disbursed in the purchase of articles outside of the institution [Trustees' School seals merely], and that all expenditures are made by cheque, properly countersigned by the different heads of the department to which they respectively belong.

They find that a perfect system of registration of every communication received by the department is maintained, by means of which the several officers to whose department the communication has reference, are immediately apprized of the contents, and answers are promptly returned to the same.

Your Committee have also made a thorough investigation of the Depository department, and find that the existing arrangements for purchasing stock are satisfactory and well fitted for securing the same on the most favourable terms. The mode of disposing of the books is equally satisfactory.

Your Committee find that the amount yearly received by the Department from the Municipalities for books, maps, &c., is very considerable, amounting in 1868 to $20,004.20, which sum is paid directly into the Public Treasury, and should be regarded as an offset against the amount granted to the Department.

In connexion with this subject your Committee submit the following statement, showing the cost of books, maps, &c., and the amount received for the same from 1850 to 1867, inclusive. Also the amount received from the Government on account thereof, viz. :—

The total amount paid for books, maps, &c., imported from 1850 to 1867, was		$271,869 52
Purchases in Montreal		3,990 06
Articles manufactured or purchased in Toronto		93,146 88
		$369,006 46
Freight, agency, packing, printing, insurance, salaries, and expenses		73,600 19
		$442,606 65
Value of Books dispatched, Libraries, including the 100 per cent. granted		123,298 97
Maps, prizes, &c.		213,993 78
Do. sold, without grant, (text books), &c.		82,182 59
		$419,475 34
Grants received from Government on this account, from 1850 67		253,518 48
Less remitted Receiver-General		66,378 69
		$187,139 79
If we deduct half of the above-mentioned amounts	$123,298 97 213,993 78	337,292 75
Which is		$168,646 37

We get the amount of goods despatched over and above what was paid for.

Taking then the grants	$187,139 79
And deducting the above proportion of goods	168,646 37
Leaves a balance of	$18,493 42

Which amount is fully covered by the stock on hand.

The above is exclusive of the transactions of 1868.

Your Committee in making this investigation have noticed that a considerable amount of extra labour has been performed in the depository and other departments by Messrs. Hodgins, Marling, and Taylor, to whose energies and abilities in a great measure the department is indebted for its present state of efficiency.

The services rendered by these gentlemen, outside of their ordinary business, and during extra hours, has hitherto rendered unnecessary the employment of additional assistance; and having performed these duties for nearly five years, your Committee regret the reduction which has been made in the amount of their emoluments, without relieving them of their extra duties, the result of which will in all probability be an increased expenditure in the shape of additional clerks.

Among other things, the printing of the establishment came under review of your Committee, and they call attention to the fact, that the prices charged by the Queen's printer are in excess of those formerly paid; for instance

	Copies.	Lovell's Charge.	Queen's Printer's Charge.	Excess
Journal of Education	5520	$130 00	$156 50	$26 50
Board of Trustees' Report	125	17 50	28 32	10 92
Scheme for Analysis	1000	10 00	15 77	5 77
	6645	$157 50	$200 59	$43 09*

Your Committee have collected a complete set of the forms and papers used in the department, which they submit for your inspection.

Your Committee have great pleasure in reporting, that the internal management of the Educational Department is most satisfactory.

In conclusion, they would recommend that there be a yearly audit of the books of the department.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. McMURRICH,
Chairman sub-Com

Toronto, January, 1869.

* The Queen's Printer contractors in their explanatory Report to the Hon. the Attorney-General Macdonald, on these charges, conclude as follows:

"We must acknowledge, however, that we are somewhat surprised that the difference in favour of our contract, admitted by all practical printers to be an exceedingly low one, is not greater than it is; and it is quite evident, after a careful examination of the accounts attached to Mr. Hodgins' report, [to the Chief Superintendent, on the Queen's Printer's Account for November and December, 1868], that the printing of the Education Department has been most economically managed."—[EDUCATION OFFICE NOTE.]

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR ONTARIO,
1st February, 1869.

X. REMARKS AND OPINIONS OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES RECEIVED IN 1872-1873

Township of Walpole.—"The trustees have left the choice of the prize books to the Board of Education. They have selected prize books for said section for 1871 and 1872, which suited well. Please select Prize Books for 1873."

Township of Marlborough.—"The prizes we received have acted like a charm; the little children like to come to school much better. The parents, seeing them so anxious to learn, keep them much better supplied with books than formerly. We would leave the choice of the prizes entirely to the Department."

Township of Ekfrid.—"They (the merit cards) have caused a great excitement among the scholars; much more than we had any expectation of. But we find that we have not sent for enough single merits, as there is a much larger attendance now than there was before we gave the merits."

Township of Mulmur.—"Being desirous of obtaining a good Sabbath School Library for our Sabbath School, we thought we would not suit ourselves better than by making application to your Department for it. We got a small supply (of books) early in the summer and as they gave good satisfaction, we agreed to increase our library this fall with a select number of books from your depository."

Township of Walsingham.—"The enclosed amount is for the purpose of getting some more prize books similar to those you sent this spring to us, with which we were highly pleased; and the books for the library exceeded our highest expectation. The selection and material surpasses anything we have ever got before from any other establishment. We intend sending for

about the same amount again this winter. We were so [illegible] pleased with them that we intend to enlarge our library. We cannot lay out our money better, and our neighbouring sections are doing the same and intend to send to the Department instead of purchasing from London and other [illegible]."

Township of Walpole.—"I may mention that the selection you made before for us was satisfactory."

Town of Picton.—"The chemical apparatus ordered by us has been duly received in good order and is likely to give entire satisfaction. The Department has our best thanks for the care displayed in the selection."

Township of Middleton.—"I sent forty dollars for prizes and books last winter, and I was well pleased with them; they gave universal satisfaction."

Township of Waterloo.—"They wish to leave the selection to you as they feel confident that your selection will prove satisfactory."

Township of Dover East.—"We leave selection to the Department as we have heretofore received satisfaction. Have the kindness to take into consideration that ours is a Catholic section."

Township of Sarnia.—"Last year the trustees of this section obtained from the Department, Prize Package No. 1, which gave good satisfaction."

City of Ottawa.—"With regard to the selection of the prizes I leave it entirely to the Department, being satisfied, that judging from the past, a judicious choice will be made."

Township of Manvers.—"For the remainder, both special and general prizes, the selection will be left entirely to the Department, as the selections of last year gave perfect satisfaction."

Township of Stephen.—We scarcely know what to select, but will trust to your judgment to send us good sound literature, as the last you sent gave good satisfaction."

Village of Omemee.—"Please make the selection. The Department's choice has always been satisfactory."

Union School, Williamstown.—"We leave the selection to you, with the assurance that you will on this occasion afford us the same satisfaction you have heretofore given us."

Township of Blandford.—"As you well suited us in the past five consecutive years the selection is again left to you."

Townships of Eldon and Mariposa.—"We left the selection to the Department last year, and were satisfied that they were better than we could select, and we therefore leave it to you this year also."

Townships of Albion and Chingiacousy.—"The last selection of books you sent us gave good satisfaction, and we leave it to the Department to select for us this time also."

Townships of Yonge and E. R.—"Being well pleased with your selection last year, we again ask you to select about 100 prizes."

Township of Mara.—"We have received the package of books in good order. They gave great satisfaction to the trustees, parents and children of the School. We are satisfied that we could not get as good a selection from any book-store in the county."

Township of Logan.—"The parcel of books which you have caused to be sent to us have arrived safely, and they have given great satisfaction."

Township of Fitzroy.—"I beg to return you thanks for the good selection which you have made and sent us this time; they are superior to any prizes we have received yet."

Township of Pittsburgh.—"The trustees directed me to say that the parcel of prize books sent in 1872-3 was entirely satisfactory; every book sent for by them was forwarded by the Depository promptly, and that, only for the extremely liberal grant given by the Department, they could not face their ratepayers after expending *any* sum on either maps or prize books, but they sincerely hope that the system of granting $100 on remittances will be continued."

Township of Elizabethtown.—"Please send down by express $10 worth of books, &c., suitable for prizes for the children. I need not specify; you can select what is suitable for them better than I could direct."

Township of Lochiel.—"Permit me to return you thanks for the selection of prize books, which were duly received, and gave great satisfaction."

Township of Plympton.—"The books sent are the best selection of prizes they (the trustees) ever got."

Township of Collingwood.—"The books sent us last year suited us very well. Will you have the kindness to make a selection for us [illegible]."

[illegible] of Cleveland.—"We received the prizes from you, and can say in return that they give general satisfaction. They created an interest in the Section, both among scholars and parents, which has not been aroused before."

[illegible] Mono.—"As you [illegible] every instance with which we are acquainted, have proved satisfactory, so we refer this selection to you."

[illegible] Norwich, N. & S.—"Your selection of prizes on two previous occasions has given good satisfaction, so we send this list rather for your guidance than as an absolute rule. If there are any of the articles asked for which you have not in stock, send such others as in your judgment may be nearest those sought."

Township of Trafalgar.—"Both children and parents were well pleased with the selection they received last year."

Township of Zorra West.—"I may state that the selection of prize books made in December for the school by the Department proved highly satisfactory."

Township of Innisfil.—"Those (prize books) you sent have given such good satisfaction that we will soon send again."

Inspector, County of Haldimand.—"I was very much pleased with the prize books sent by the Department, and will urge Trustees to apply to you for semi-annual supplies of them."

Township of Zorra East.—"We should like the same care taken in selection, and books of the larger size, averaging from thirty to eighty cents each."

Township of Normanby.—"Accept our sincere thanks for the books and cards received from the Education Office, especially for the German books, which are very interesting, useful and instructive."

Township of Dorchester, N.—"The globes are everything that could be expected; they are a credit to the makers."

Township of Bruce.—"We feel very well satisfied with the selection you made for us."

Township of Colborne.—"The selection made for me by the Department has always been most satisfactory."

Townships of Crosby, N. and S.—"The selection made by the Department last time was so excellent that it is again left to it, only suggesting that a few toys, instead of books, would be as well for the smaller pupils."

Township of Essa.—"We were well satisfied with your selection last year."

Village of Colborne.—"Your last selection was very satisfactory."

Township of Chingiacousy.—"In the selection of books that you sent us in March last we found several excellent books, and we therefore leave the selection to the Department again."

Township of Thurlow.—"We leave the selection of the books, as with you, for those we received last year were all that could be desired, and you selected them."

Township of Blandford.—"The selection being left with you, as you have suited us by your selection for the last four years."

Township of [illegible], W.—"Having [illegible] sent from your Depository, I [illegible] as good as possible at the price."

Township of [illegible] East.—"The maps and E. R. Lessons I purchased at the Depository in October last, I am glad to say have given not only satisfaction to the trustees, but a great pleasure to the teacher and scholars. The Tablet Reading Lessons are certainly necessary in [illegible] the first book."

[illegible] of [illegible].—"The [illegible] you made for us for two years [illegible] could have made ourselves; and the books you sent gave [illegible] satisfaction [illegible]."

Township of Minto.—"The packages [illegible] from the Department have given us great satisfaction."

[illegible] of Ottawa.—"We were very much pleased with the Department's selection for 'Teacher's Library,' and therefore leave the choice of this [illegible]."

[illegible]

Township of Beverley.—"As the selections heretofore made by the Department have given satisfaction, we leave them to be made as on former occasions."

Township of Lisgar.—"The trustees desire me to say that the packages they received in the year 1870 gave good satisfaction."

Township of Fitzroy.—"The selection you will please make yourself, as we were well pleased with books, &c., sent us in March last."

Fenelon.—"We are highly pleased with the maps, apparatus, &c., sent us last at the beginning of the present year. The maps in particular, give universal satisfaction. We have no sympathy whatever with those who speak and write disparagingly of the praiseworthy efforts of the Department."

Township of Bayham.—"You gave good satisfaction in answer to similar order last year, and I feel confident that you can do better than if I attempt to select from the catalogue myself."

Township of Innisfil.—"We leave the selection to you. We were well satisfied with those you sent last year."

Township of Mariposa.—"We got a package (prizes) last year, and it was better than those we could select."

Township of Moore.—"The selections of former years were entirely to our minds; therefore, we leave the matter wholly in your hands."

Township of Saltfleet.—"We have been getting prize books some seven years, and have always been satisfied before."

Township of Brock.—"Your last selection gave entire satisfaction."

Township of Mariposa.—"We are highly pleased with the prizes we got from the department. There are some excellent books among them. Our school is very prosperous this year. I believe partly due to competition for prizes by merit cards."

City of Ottawa——(Inspector P. S.)—"I have much pleasure in expressing my satisfaction with the selection of works made by the officers of the Department, both in the Teachers' Library and the Christmas prizes."

Township of Mara.—"We leave the choice of the articles to you. We did so before, and were well pleased at the result."

Township of Raleigh.—"We offer you our thanks for the very suitable prize books we received in November last, which gave general satisfaction."

Township of Townsend.—"Your last selection was so suitable and appropriate that we leave the choice again in your hands."

Township of Williams West.—"The last library we procured contained books, chiefly on *Adventures in Hunting*, &c., which appeared to excite an interest for reading in the section, and satisfied all parties."

Township of Fenelon.—"We thought the last assortment was beautifully selected."

Township of Keppel.—"The books you sent have arrived safe and in good order, and we were very well pleased with them."

Township of Whitby West.—"Your selections in previous years for our school have given satisfaction, and we prefer leaving it with you again, to making our own selection."

Township of Williamsburg.—"I received your merit cards, and was well pleased with them."

Township of Grantham.—"The books you sent us last year gave satisfaction."

Township of Moore.—"We are well pleased with what we received last year, and again leave them (prize books) to your selection."

Township of Saltfleet.—"The library books we obtained last year gave great satisfaction."

Township of Gloucester.—"We received the package (prizes) last year, and were well pleased with them."

Township of Pickering.—"The package of prize books and the map of the world sent from the Department were in every respect found to be satisfactory."

Township of Esquesing.—"Last year you selected the books for us; the selection giving good satisfaction."

Township of Dereham.—"Though we did not receive all the books we sent for, still those selected in their places were very appropriate."

Township of Egremont.—"We leave you to make the selection, as we have always got satisfaction in the past."

Township of Marmora.—"I think it is seven times I have gotten prize books from the Department, and always with good satisfaction."

Township of Peterboro.—"You will please accept our thanks for your very good and appropriate selection of books, and the many little pleasing extras you so kindly put in, which I feel sure will all help to elevate our schools still more."

Township of Haldimand.—"The books and papers ordered at your office give the best satisfaction, for which accept our thanks."

XI. PRICES OF DEPOSITORY BOOKS.

A STATEMENT AND APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE BOOKSELLERS.

The editor of the *Brockville Recorder* (David Wyllie, Esq.) in remarking on the subject of the Depository in his paper of the 26th Feb., uses the following very significant language in regard to the prices of the Depository books, and the hopes of the booksellers in regard to these prices under the proposed provisions of the School Bill on the subject. Mr. Wyllie says:—

"Our experience with the Depository is, that many of the Books "*are marked at a very low figure*, but that the catalogue could not "be depended upon, as they never had a full list in stock * * * "care should be taken by the Government *that the Department* "*does not mark the books down below their actual value*, and thus "defeat the OBJECT *of the Bill*."

In one of the "suggestions" Pamphlet on the Depository issued "for the trade," the writer urges that catalogues and lists of books be issued from time to time, *with such prices affixed as will not prevent the trade from competing with the Depository.*

In regard to the prices of the Depository books, the following testimony of two of the Inspectors is conclusive. W. R. Bigg, Esq., Inspector of Public Schools, Leeds, says:—

"With regard to the Depository, I wish to add to my former statement, that I have frequently tested the prices of books in a wholesale shop in Brockville, as compared with those of similar works at the former, and have *invariably found a difference of at least 25 per cent. in favour of the Depository, irrespective of the 100 per cent. Departmental allowance.*

"After I resigned the position of Principal of the United High Public School of Brockville, I was succeeded by the present incumbent, Dr. Evans, and in the summer of 1872, he was authorized by the Board of Trustees to expend the sum voted for prizes, among the town book-sellers, if he thought could purchase nearly as advantageously as at the Depository in Toronto, taking into consideration the aforesaid Departmental allowance of 100 per cent.

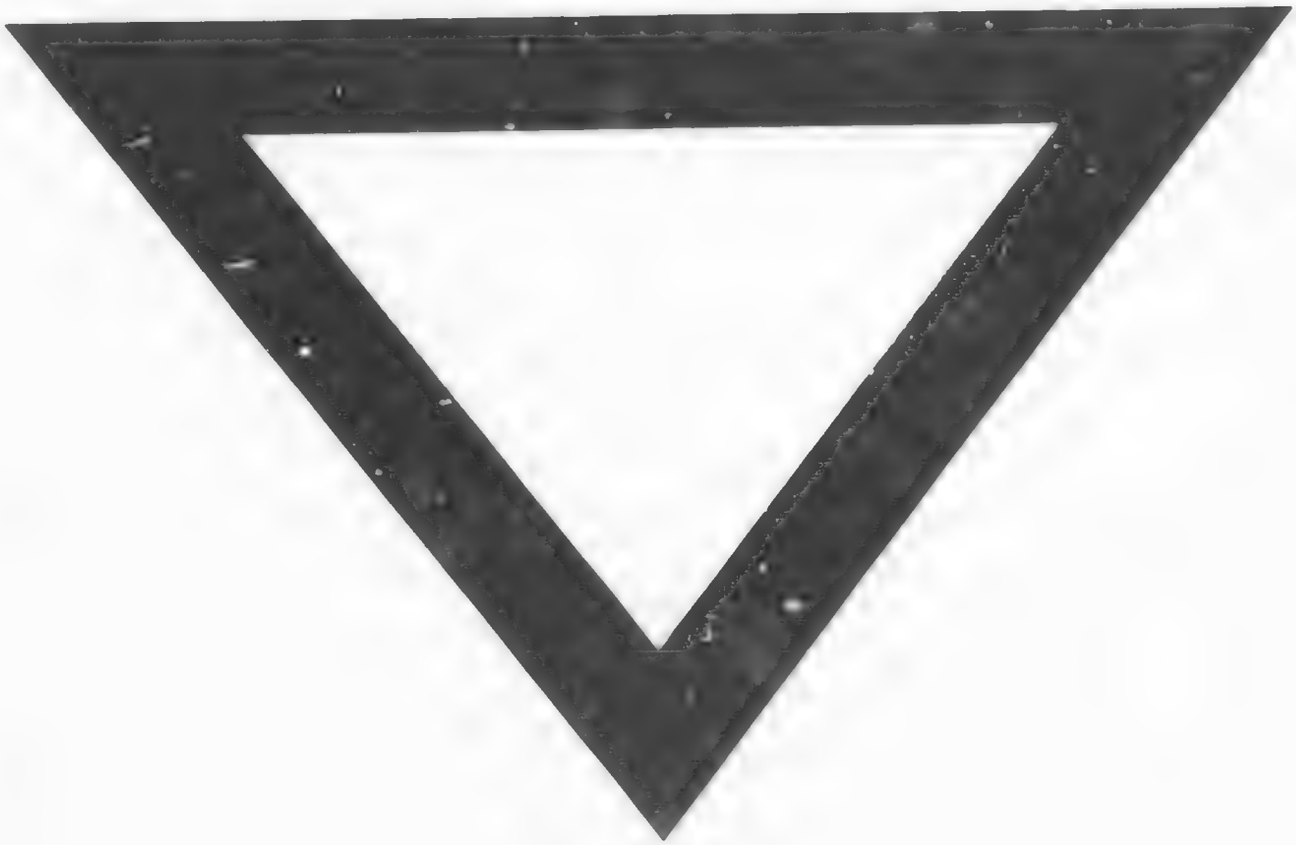
"As the result of Dr. Evans' investigation with the determination, or rather the inclination on his part to purchase in Brockville, if possible, I may mention that the order was as usual transmitted to the Education Office, the Doctor having satisfied himself, that independent of the 100 per cent allowance, the books could be purchased at a less price from the Depository, besides the advantages of a better and more varied assortment. Perhaps it may not be inappropriate further to observe, that the town book-sellers were aware of the contemplated purchase, and offered their wares for less than their regular prices."

John Johnston, Esq., Inspector of South Hastings, also says:—

"During 14 years as a teacher, many prize books were sent from the Depository *giving the trustees, myself, and all concerned, the very best satisfaction as regards price and reading matter, the Department in all cases making the selections*; and I can prove that the Depository sells Educational works, at least, 40 per cent. less than some of the book-sellers, and all books are sold much less than they sell them."

Toronto, March, 1874.

Printed by HUNTER, ROSE & CO., 68 King Street West, Toronto.



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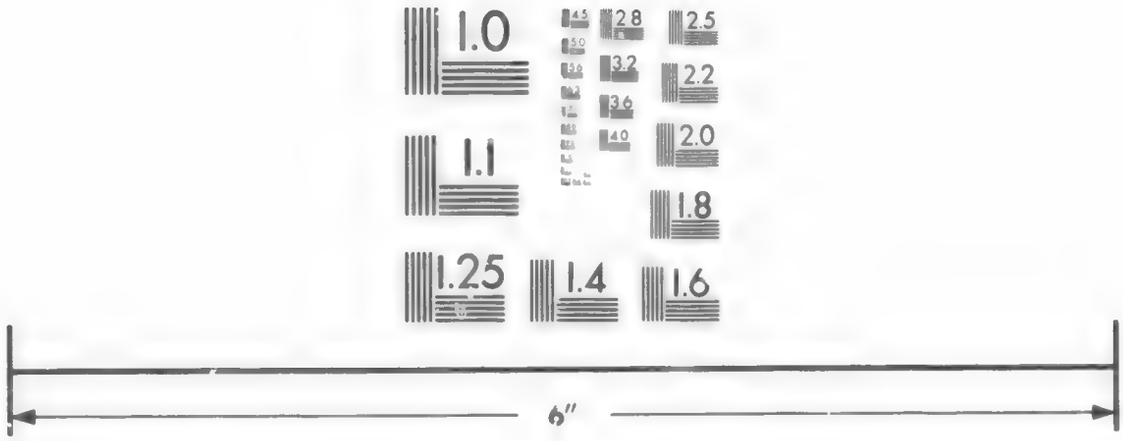

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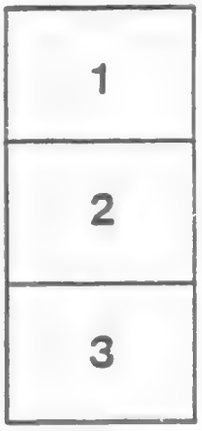

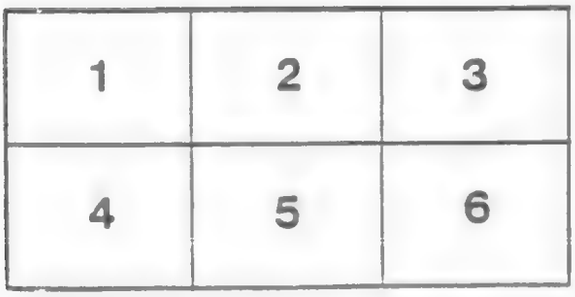

ATTACK

ON

THE PEOPLE'S DEPOSITORY FOR ONTARIO.

MR. G. M. ADAM, a bookseller in Toronto, having in his recent Pamphlet to the Premier, attacked the administration of the People's Depository for Ontario, without adducing any proof of his statements, the following letters were written in reply. They are for convenience reprinted in this form, together with the admirable replies of the Public School Inspectors, whose opinions Mr. ADAM had so entirely misrepresented:

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I. REV. DR. RYERSON'S DEFENCE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

To the Hon. O. Mowat, Q.C., M.P.P., Premier and Attorney-General of Ontario.

SIR,—I have just read a pamphlet of twenty-four pages, being a letter addressed to you by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, a bookseller in this city, and entitled "Reform in the Education Office"; "The Educational Book Depository"—a pamphlet replete with the grossest misrepresentations against the Education Department, and rank with numerous attacks upon the character of several gentlemen connected with it.

2. Had Mr. G. M. Adam's object been the public good, and not private gain, he would have published his pamphlet weeks ago, when his charges could have been investigated by competent authority before the meeting of the Legislature, and, instead of waiting until the midst of the session, when the very subjects which he misrepresents are under the consideration of the Legislature, and when, as he of course, intended, the accused would have no opportunity to refute his false statements. But I much mistake, sir, your own sense of fairness and public duty, as well as that of the members of the Legislative Assembly of all parties, if the important matters of the Education Department are to be dealt with under the influence of downright misrepresentations, without an opportunity being afforded to vindicate the character of honourable servants of the public, impugned, and to justify the wisdom and importance of a feature of our system of public instruction which constitutes a prominent characteristic of its superior excellence and efficiency.

3. If, Sir, sustained by the public and aided by all parties in successive parliaments for thirty years, I have been enabled to devise and develop a system of public instruction, not only valued by the people of this country, but more or less copied in every British Province of America and Australia, and in England itself, I do not believe our Legislature will maim, much less destroy, a vital part of it without enquiry and deliberation. Nor can I even suspect that any considerable portion of my fellow countrymen will regard me as a fool or a knave, and an enemy to my country in one department of our school system, when my very assailants admit that I have done good service to the public in other departments of it. As well may it be alleged that the Education Department itself is no longer necessary, as that the Educational Depository has outlived its necessity and usefulness; and I avow my profoundest conviction, strengthened by experience, observation and intercourse with educationists, at home and abroad, that apart from the infancy or age of our country or of its school system, but from the nature of the work to be done and relations and duties of the parties engaged in it, that the Educational Depository is as essential to the complete effectiveness of our school system, as the right arm is essential to an effective man. Mr. G. M. Adam adduces from writers on political economy and sociology, quotations which have no more application to the subject of the Educational Depository than star-gazing has to agriculture. He applies to the depository the terms, "inefficiency, extravagance, and public loss." On the contrary I am prepared to demonstrate before any parliamentary committee by all the evidence that the nature of the subject will admit, that the depository both in theory and practice, is justified upon the grounds of *efficiency*, *economy* and the *public good*.

4. Mr. G. M. Adam's pamphlet of unsupported assertions and calumnious imputations, might be met by simple denial and demand for investigation, but I will first adduce two or three specimens which will exhibit his inner man, as his pamphlet shows his outer man.

5. He charges the Educational Department again and again with purchasing books through an "intermediate agency," "a commission merchant in fact," and says that the "stock is mainly purchased at *second-hand*, and by an inexperienced buyer." Not only are these statements without the shadow of truth, but I will show that Mr. G. M. Adam himself sought for this intermediate agency, to be "a commission merchant in fact," for the department; that he sought unsuccessfully to induce the department to do the very thing with which he now charges it. If he had succeeded we would have had a letter of praise instead of calumny: but, as he was unsuccessful, he assails us and becomes a patriot, as many a disappointed office and contract-seeker bitterly, but of course patriotically, assails the government that has rejected his applications. I have some fifteen letters of correspondence, extending from September, 1872, to September, 1875, between Mr. G. M. Adam and his firm and this department, on the purchase of English books through their House, as the "intermediate agency," but I will confine myself to extracts from two or three of these letters. In a letter dated September 30th, 1872, Messrs. Adam and Co. say

"We are now in receipt of our new stocks, our Mr. Adam's personal purchases in Britain this summer, and we take the liberty of bringing to your notice the accompanying selection of samples, representing various lines in our fall stock, which we shall have full supplies of, and will be able to execute at advantageous terms

Our stock will be drawn from over a hundred leading British pub- [illegible] and will embrace the choice and important publications of [illegible] prominent houses. We enclose memo. of the samples sent you on approval at net rates for quantities, and we shall be pleased [illegible] your further favours. There are many special lines, [illegible] we would be glad to bring to your notice in edu- [illegible] general literature if you would do us [illegible] to call and run over our stock; or, if more convenient, the writer will be glad to confer with you at your department in regard to them."

6. In a letter dated 3rd Oct., 1872, Messrs Adam and Co., [illegible] mentioning numerous books and their prices, say:—

"A few only are remainders, and are quoted low, but the bulk are specimens of current and fresh stock, which is constantly being turned over. The publications of the house of John Murray, London, we can now sell at advantageous rates—a list of some of Smith's educational works we enclose from which we can give you [illegible] Messrs. Longman's books also we should endeavour to quote at same discount—net for cash. The books in bindings at [illegible] off net; and in general, from the retail price now ruling, of all English stock we will give you supplies at—off the sterling prices laid down, but not subject to any cash discount further."

7. Last autumn, September 18, 1873, Mr. G. M. Adam addressed the following letter to Dr. Hodgins:—

DEAR SIR, I have just returned from England, and find the stock now arriving I personally selected there. It occurs to me there are a few lines you would like to see, I pick up a few at random and send them herewith with quotations. If you could make it convenient to drop in and run over the wareroom, you might alight on some stock which we can sell advantageously. Every steamer will bring us further shipments, and I will proceed to prepare a catalogue and send you a copy at an early day.

"Can you use more of Dr. Punshon's Lectures, 'Toronto of Old,' &c.? [illegible] promptly."

8. To the above letter Dr. Hodgins replied as follows:

"EDUCATION OFFICE,
TORONTO, 25th Sept., 1873.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 18th inst., I have the honour to thank you for your attention, and to state that as we are in communication with the English publishers ourselves, we are not in a position to order books except from them *direct*. Our invariable rule is to order only from the individual publishers, unless in rare and special cases.

"To avoid any inconvenience, we shall be happy to keep the books which you have sent, and will thank you for our invoice of them in duplicate.

"I have, &c.,
"(Signed) J. GEORGE HODGINS."
Deputy Superintendent.

9. Mr. G. M. Adam, however, was not willing to abandon his suit, but renewed it again in the following letter:

"TORONTO, Sept. 26, 1873.

"*J. George Hodgins, LL.D.*

"DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favour of to-day, and to thank you for the same. The very advantageous terms secured by us in our dealings with the English publishers I feel sure will enable our making your quotations for British stock as satisfactory as those of your direct importations, which the supplies can be had on call. Perhaps, however, a call upon us at our warerooms, when convenient, will indicate this more clearly. Meantime, to your request, we hand you invoice of recent consignment, and that of a small one in July.

"We shall take the liberty of submitting you our forthcoming catalogue at an early day.

"I am, &c.,
"(Signed) G. MERCER ADAM
"For A. S. & Co."

10. It is perfectly clear from the foregoing extracts of correspondence, that Mr. G. M. Adam sought persistently to become the "intermediate agency," the "commission merchant in fact," between the Education Department and the English book publishers. Had he succeeded there would have been no pamphlet against the department, as it would soon have become dependent on Mr. Adam's generosity; and he would soon have become the "commission merchant in fact," for booksellers generally, and at [illegible], with a little Toronto "ring," to rule the prices of [illegible] to the increase of them at his pleasure, at the expense of the school authorities and all other book purchasers. But Mr. Adam having failed in his policy, now charges the department, without a particle of proof, with doing what he sought in vain to make it do, and what he knew it had not done from the evidence of his own experience and Dr. Hodgins' letter above quoted, and which was in his possession.

11. I may add that there are persons connected with the Education Department who have had longer experience in the purchase of books than Mr. Adam himself, and know too much of the business to be deceived or seduced by this plausible sharp trader's offers and [illegible].

12. Then "in the matter of text-books," Mr. G. M. Adam speaks of our text-books as "unsuitable," "for the most part worthless," while "such valuable series of educational works, as those from the British publishing houses of Macmillan, Longman, Rivington, Cassell, Nelson and Collins, are excluded, so that the inferior and untrustworthy productions of officials may be forced upon the schools."

13. The untruth of Mr. G. M. Adam's statement may be judged of, when it is known that our series of readers and list of text-books were prepared by such men as Dr. McCaul, Dr. Ormiston, Dean Grasett, and others, with all the text-books mentioned by Mr. Adam before them, and a great many others issued by school book publishers, both in Great Britain and the United States; that all the other text-books were revised or recommended by them, and sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction, in the adoption, publication, and sale of which not an "official" of the department has a farthing's personal interest.

14. But supposing, as Mr. G. M. Adam advocates, the various English text-books mentioned by him were authorized as our school text-books, what absence of all classification and uniformity in our schools, and what enormous expenses to parents, besides inconvenience to teachers and children, by the introduction of various English books! Mr. Adam would, of course, profit largely by the importation and sale of such books, but there would be more than a corresponding loss to the purchasers of such books and the schools using them, and a corresponding discouragement and loss in the Canadian manufacture and adaptation of our text-books. I am confident that our Canadian school text-book will favourably compare, in the judgment of competent and impartial persons, in the matter and adaptation, to any of the text-books mentioned by Mr. G. M. Adam, apart from their greater cheapness, and being the productions of our own country.

15. I will reserve my more important remarks on Mr. G. M. Adam's pamphlet for another, and, I hope, briefer letter.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. RYERSON.

II. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DEFENDED.

BY THE REV. DR. RYERSON.

(SECOND AND LAST LETTER.)

To the Hon. O. Mowat, Q., M.P.P., Premier and Attorney General of Ontario.

SIR,—I now proceed to notice the more serious and specific charges of Mr. G. M. Adam against the Education Department, its work and its officers.

1. Mr. G. M. Adam speaks as contemptuously of the *Journal of Education* as he does of the Canadian School text books, and, of course, for the same reasons. On this point I have to make three remarks. 1. I established, edited, and published it, and paid all deficiencies as to receipts for defraying the expenses of it myself for six years; when I informed the Government that I should not continue it unless the Legislature would provide for its publication, so as to furnish School corporations and other school officers with a copy each to assist them in their duties, and in the management of the schools. 2. Besides making the *Journal of Education* the medium of all official circulars, notices and school intelligence, I have thought it best to make it the depository and medium of the most interesting educational intelligence from other countries, and of the best thoughts of the best educational writers, selected and compressed from various books, reports and educational periodicals published in Europe and America, and not to fill its pages with long prosy papers purporting to be original, but interesting only to the writers themselves; much less have I made it the medium of controversy, even for the vindication of myself from any of the various attacks made upon me. In this the *Journal* has been regarded as a valuable treasury of useful knowledge in educational matters by gentlemen abroad as well as at home, whose opinions are worth a hundred times more than those of Mr. G. M. Adam, even if he were not an interested and prejudiced party. The late Chief Justice Bovill said once on the Bench that he could

[illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] impartial exponent of the best principles of Canadian patriotism, but which has strangely degenerated down to the poor twaddle of silly tales, the quagmire of ignoble partizanship, and the selfish purposes of a sharp bookseller's speculation.

2. Mr. G. M. Adam charges the accounts of the Education Department with having been so "manipulated that it is impossible for any body of men not in possession of the secrets of the office, to verify or dispute them." My answer to this base imputation is, 1. That there are no "secrets of the office;" every book and every account is open to every member of the Government, and every member of the Legislature who desires to examine them. 2. That Mr. Alexander Marling, the chief accountant of the Department, is, I believe, second to no other man in Canada, in his profession, and is incapable of doing a dishonourable thing. Mr. Marling may well challenge the minutest inquiry by any Committee of the Legislative Assembly, or any other competent body of men, and bid defiance to the author of the unmanly and unprincipled stab that Mr. G. M. Adam has sought to inflict upon his integrity and character.* 3. That in answer to a similar charge against the Department some years ago, the Legislative Assembly appointed a large Committee to examine into the working of the Education Department. That Committee appointed a sub-Committee, of which the Hon. J. McMurrich was Chairman—certainly as good a judge of business, and of business accounts as Mr. G. M. Adam. That sub-Committee devoted days to its work, and, among other things equally honourable to the Department, unanimously reported as follows:

"Your Committee find that the system adopted by the Department is of so thorough and complete a character, that no funds can by any possibility be received without being checked by proper officers, whose several duties require them to make entries in various books, through which every item can readily be traced.

"They find that all moneys received by the Department are regularly deposited to the credit of the Government, with the exception of moneys intended to be disbursed in the purchase of articles outside of the institution (Trustee School seals merely), and that all expenditures are made by cheque, properly countersigned by the different heads of the department to which they respectively belong.

"They find that a perfect system of registration of every communication received by the department is maintained, by means of which the several officers to whose department the communication has reference, are immediately apprised of the contents, and answers are promptly returned to the same.

"Your Committee have also made a thorough investigation of the Depository department, and find that the existing arrangements for purchasing stock are satisfactory and well fitted for securing the same on the most favourable terms. The mode of disposing of the books is equally satisfactory." I may add, that Dr. May, who has chief charge of the book depository, and Mr. H. M. Wilkinson, who under Dr. May, has chief charge of the Map and apparatus branch, and of the daily sales, are as "invulnerable to any charge as to both ability and fidelity, as the chief accountant, and challenge the most searching Governmental enquiry."

3. Be it also observed, that every officer in the Department, from the oldest to the youngest, (as well as every teacher in the Normal and Model schools,) has been selected on his own supposed merits without any previous acquaintance or predilection on my part, and on trial for six months as to ability, faithfulness and industry, [illegible] N[illegible] [illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] Mr. G. M. A[illegible] [illegible] the late Chief Justice, Sir John Robinson, as to the law in regard to my disposal of the small annual sum provided for its establishment. I also consulted three members of the then Canadian Government, who were also in London, England, as well as the late Earl of Elgin, who furnished me with a pamphlet and documents showing the endorsement of my views by distinguished [illegible] England, and among others, by the late Sir Robert Peel. I wished to furnish to the many young people trained as teachers, means of instructive and refining relaxation in their severe studies and hard work, and to my fellow countrymen who cannot (like Mr. G. M. Adam) travel to Europe, the opportunity of seeing copies and facsimiles of objects of art and of interest in European Museums, as well as many objects illustrative of the natural history and resources of our country, and models and collections useful for practical purposes. Many thousands from every part of Canada have visited the Museum, as have many hundreds of educated travellers from the United States† and England, who have, with one accord, expressed their gratification, and not a few their astonishment, that so much could have been done with so small means, when they learned the comparatively insignificant sum which had been expended [illegible] the appropriation of which no one has ever felt, and even of the existence of which few were aware. The work speaks for itself; but in whatever estimation it may be held by others, it is of [illegible] a grievance to Mr. G. M. Adam, as it does not bring him pecuniary gain.

5. Mr. G. M. Adam alleges against the Department that the proceedings of the Council of Public Instruction are not published; but I have never yet heard of the publication of the minutes of the Governor in Council, or of the Executive Council, or of the Senate of the University. But I may add that the minutes of all the meetings of the Council of Public Instruction for several years were laid before the Legislative Assembly in 1870, on motion of Mr. Blake; since which time they have been regularly transmitted as soon as confirmed, to the Provincial Secretary, subject to be published or otherwise at the pleasure of the Government.

But on his last page, Mr. G. M. Adam unsays all that he had said and demanded in the preceding pages of his pamphlet. After having denounced the censorship of the Council of Public Instruction over text and other books for schools, he admits that the Council should examine and recommend books; that there should be a "Depository;" that the department should publish yearly a catalogue of all books and maps sanctioned by the Council, with supplementary lists monthly or quarterly during the year, with such prices affixed as will not prevent the trade competing with the Depository. I thank Mr. G. M. Adam for his vital, but to the whole of his own theory, fatal admission. The whole of his pamphlet of grievances now dwindles down to the secret which at last escapes him, namely, that the prices of the books at the Education Depository are too low for even him to compete with, notwithstanding his boasted advantageous purchases from more than a hundred English booksellers, against the 53 leading English booksellers with whom the department has had dealings. The members of the Legislature, and the School authorities throughout the land will now understand, that one prime object of Mr. G. M. Adam's crusade against the Education Department is to advance the prices of the books which they require for their libraries and schools.

6. And I have further to add that whereas formerly we imported (as Mr. G. M. Adam now wishes) our school maps, globes, and [illegible] as well as those of Canadian manufacture; and while the former is inferior to the latter in quality and adaptation, the Canadian manufactured articles are on an average from twenty to eighty per [illegible]

* [illegible] Mr. Langton, who is not accused of an undue bias in favour of the Education Department, gave the following evidence before the Departmental Commission of 1863: "The Superintendents of Education send me vouchers for all their expenditure. The accounts of the Upper Canada Superintendent are very regular, and are amongst the most correct in form that come to my office." *Sessional Papers No. 11, Vol. XVI, Session 1863.*) After the educational service was transferred to the Confederation A[illegible] [illegible] that had been approved by Mr. Langton was continued, until the system was changed [illegible] the Government. The change consisted simply in this that [illegible] the former practice the Government issued money to the department, which was expended and afterwards vouched for; under the present mode certified vouchers in detail are transmitted to the hon. the Provincial Treasurer, and the payments are made through that department to the parties entitled [illegible]

† [illegible] of competentness, a par[illegible] American statesmen. [illegible] education depa[illegible]

cent cheaper than the imported ones, while domestic industry and skill are developed, and money kept in the country that would be otherwise sent abroad. In this way no less than twenty thousand dollars have been kept in the country, and expended during the year 1873, in the manufacture of all our school maps, globes, and other school apparatus, and all by estimates and tenders, as the papers of the Department will show, and contrary to the statements of Mr G. M. Adam

7. To recapitulate and conclude, I beg the appointment and exhaustive investigations of a Committee of the Legislature, or of a Commission (the former, preferable), before which I am prepared to prove the following things

(1.) That Mr. G. M. Adam has been most persistent, yet unsuccessful, in his efforts to induce the department to obtain its supplies from him of "various lines, drawn from over one hundred leading English publishers," which he had "personally purchased in Britain

(2.) That his insinuations about "leakage" in the museum (kept in the roof, which is, indeed serious), is pure fiction.

(3.) That the Department has always had direct dealings with all the great publishers in England, as well as with the publishers in the United States and Canada, and does not order its books through any intermediate agency.

(4.) That none of its stock is purchased "second-hand," although Mr. Adam has laboured sedulously to lead us into that trap with himself—no doubt as it now appears, of being used by him against the department

(5.) That no "selection" sent out is made in the manner he states: that catalogues and lists of new books for any out of stock are furnished to the school authorities, and no selection is ever made by officers of the department; except at the request of the parties ordering them

(6.) That Mr. G. M. Adam misrepresents the views and opinions of the Inspectors and other Educationists in regard to the Depository.

(7.) That the Depository is self-supporting, and that even after allowing for salaries, rent, interest, insurance, depreciation of stock and other contingencies, there is a margin in favour of the public. This was substantially stated by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in January, 1869, after minute inquiry and personal examination

(8.) That the "business" of the Depository each year is not "$25,000," as stated by Mr. Adam, but at least $50,000, as that worth of material ($53,000 in 1873) is sent out yearly to the schools, besides the ordering, receipt, classifying, marking and putting away of $50,000 worth of purchases

(9.) That for all articles made for the department, tenders of cost are required from parties concerned; or estimates in the case of parties who alone can manufacture them without having to import them from abroad.

(10.) That "only a printer in the British metropolis" is not employed and paid as Mr. Adam states; that he has never selected a single book, article of stationery, or other things as stated; that he merely packs and ships what is sent to him, or fills an order (as of glass, &c.), according to a list which has been sent to him in detail, and selected from published lists examined at the department.

(11.) That this department not only imports its own stationery, but that it also did so by order of the late Attorney-General as a trial; and that so well satisfied was he of the economy and efficiency of the plan that he authorized us to import it for the future for our department.

(12.) That no officer of this department has any pecuniary gain whatever from the transactions of the Depository; that no money except Customs duties and petty items is paid out by this department on an accountable warrant being issued by the Government, but every other payment on its account is made to be kellers, manufacturers, &c., (as well as to the municipalities, separate schools, superannuated teachers, &c.) by the Provincial Treasurer or invoices and vouchers previously furnished him; that every farthing received at the department from any and every source is paid into the public treasury, into which was paid in all during the year 1873 by the department the sum of $51,480.

* * * * * *

Sir, I believe I have as much good will on one side of the Legislative Assembly as on the other side, but whatever may be their feelings as individual members in regard to me personally, I believe they will not treat me otherwise than justly; and I ask for nothing more. I have only to add, that though far in the thirtieth year of my administration of an important and difficult department, and beyond the age of seventy, I will not, by God's help, relinquish my post while a stain of unrefuted calumny rests upon myself or those honourable men not one of them of my own religious persuasion who have laboured with me as the heart of one man for more than a quarter of a century, in a work that already invests our country with an enviable nobility, and bears help and hope to the poorest child in the remotest cottage [illegible]

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. RYERSON

Toronto, Feb. 14, 1874

III. THE EDUCATIONAL DEPOSITORY AND MR. G. M. ADAM

To the Editor of the Mail.

SIR,—I observe in the *Mail* of yesterday morning, a letter of nearly three columns from Mr. G. M. Adam, purporting to be a rejoinder to my letter, in reply to his pamphlet of twenty-four pages against the Council of Public Instruction and Education Department in general, and against the Educational Depository and its managers in particular.

2. I am glad to see you acting upon the good old principles of British fair play, admitting to your columns what is said on both sides, and not, as one of your daily contemporaries of large pretensions, who makes and admits every sort of attack against the Education Department and its officers, but refuses to admit one word in their defence

3. Not noticing the scurrilous verbiage which appears to constitute some four-fifths of Mr. Adam's letter, I have to remark as follows, respecting his principal statements

(1.) That of the money certified to the treasury for payment of the "London agent," not one penny has been remitted to him for the "*payment*" (as Mr. Adam unscrupulously asserts) of a single map or a single book for school libraries or prizes

(2.) That there is not a shadow of truth in his statement, that any "percentage" or other "remuneration" was ever asked, "demanded" or "extracted" from the map mounter (M. J. B. Carter) referred to, or given or received by any one connected with the department. I notice a letter from Mr. Carter in this day's *M* emphatically contradicting Mr. Adam's most shameful slan against the officers of the department in this particular

(3.) That for the work done, which so much distresses Mr. Adam, in the drawing, reconstruction or correction of maps published by the department, not one-half of the sum has been paid which was specified in the tenders and estimates made by other parties. All these tenders and estimates were laid by me before the head of the Government at the time, in the hand-writing of the several parties concerned, and I accepted that which I was thus advised to do. For example, the Crown Lands Department asked a certain sum for reconstructing a certain map; one of the parties, abused by Mr. Adam, reconstructed the same map as prescribed by me, and twelve other maps for this same sum.

(4.) That in not a single case, Mr. Adam says "many cases," has "money mitted by trustees been suffered to lie for years in the hands of those in charge, because the correspondents of the Depository declined to accept any equivalent in stock which they had neither ordered nor desired."

(5.) That not one cent received at the Depository is permitted to remain one day "in the hands of those in charge" of the Depository, they being required to account for and pay over *daily* all such moneys, and the chief accountant receiving them, deposits them in the bank to the credit of the Hon., the Provincial Treasurer, as fast as they reach the sum of, at least one hundred dollars.

(6.) That it is not true, as stated by Mr. Adam, that "private seminaries, students, &c., are compelled to purchase foreign maps," since, by a long-standing arrangement, the lithographers who print the maps for the Depository, and constructed by it, can supply private schools and other parties with them.

4. Such are the six principal new charges which Mr. Adam brings against the department and its officers, all of which can be proved false before any commission of inquiry, in addition to his pamphlet misstatements which I have noticed in my two former letters, and proposed to disprove in the same way.

5. Mr. Adam denies having attacked the Chief Accountant of the Department, and yet he had represented him as so "manipulating" his accounts as to make them incomprehensible to any one "not in the secrets of the office." He also denies having attacked the officers of the department, yet charges them, in addition to former untruthful imputations, with extracting percentage for themselves, even from the map-mounter. Mr. Adam having applied the word "ring" to the Council of Public Instruction, yet his own words and sessional paper which he quotes, disprove his denial, as in the cases above noticed. Thus, the very letter alluded to by Mr.

Adam, refers to the members of the Council [illegible]

8. In another official document from the Government, quoted in this December number of the *Canadian Monthly*, is one in which [illegible] ed, "that on two occasions, the Council has appointed [illegible] to and [illegible]

[illegible] shown in the Council's reply, that the members referred to were the Rev. Mr. Ormiston, and the Rev. Prof. [illegible] been appointed *examiners*, but to whom the Council had never paid a farthing. The Chief Superintendent represented their services to the Government, and by an order of the Governor in Council, each was paid a certain sum by the Provincial Treasurer. All this as well as all the other matters referred to and enquired about by the Government, were explained by the Council, but its explanations are suppressed in the *Canadian Monthly*, and the printing of them has been suppressed in the sessional papers, to the great injustice of the Council and Education Department.

Mr. Adam represents me as "boasting" of the Depository, "an institution which sells at prime cost, without taking into account the expense of maintenance," &c., when I had never said anything of the kind, but had said expressly, that in the cost was reckoned the salaries of clerks, insurances, depreciation of stock, &c., at which cost, thus reckoned, the books, maps, &c., were supplied to the School Corporations and Municipalities.

8. Mr. Adam devotes half a column to the *Journal of Education*, but omits all reference to the important fact, that I had myself edited and published it for six years without a farthing's remuneration or assistance from the Government, and paying myself the deficiencies which were not met by the subscriptions, thus showing my own appreciation of the *Journal of Education*, before leaving to the Government and Legislature the alternative of its discontinuance, or furnishing it gratuitously to the school corporations, &c., who devoted gratuitously so much time and labour for the public interests. The public cost of its 6,000 copies for the Public School Corporations, and other school officers, is at the rate of forty-five cents per copy per year.

9. It appears from the Public Accounts, that Mr. G. M. Adam has received no [illegible] $2,000 for supplying books to the Legislative Library last year. It does not appear, that Mr. G. M. Adam obtained this large sum by "public tender," and it would be a curiosity to institute a comparison between the prices which Mr. Adam charged and obtained for these books, (bought through his "intermediate agency") and the prices at which school corporations obtain the same kind of books at the Educational Depository.

10. Mr. Adam omits all reference to his own letters, in which he obsequiously solicited (what he afterwards denounced in his pamphlet,) "the intermediate agency," to be the "commission merchant in fact," to supply the Education Department with the books of English booksellers. He also omits likewise, all reference to the "searching Governmental enquiry," which he had demanded, and which I had solicited, and before which I proposed to prove *twelve* things, including a complete refutation of his twenty-four pages of false accusations. His omissions and silence on these essential points, involve a confession, and imply a shrinking that speaks for itself.

11. But I cannot consent to allow Mr. Adam, cuttlefish-like, to wriggle away uncaught, under the cover of the dark liquid of his scandalous charges against the Council of Public Instruction, the Education Department, and its officers.

And to refresh Mr. Adam's memory, and prevent misapprehension, or successful misrepresentation, I repeat, besides the six things above mentioned, that I beg the appointment and exhaustive investigation of a Committee of the Legislature, or of a Commission, (the former preferable,) before which I am prepared to prove the following things:

(1.) That Mr. G. M. Adam has been most persistent, yet unsuccessful in his efforts to induce the department to obtain its supplies from him of "various lines, drawn from one hundred leading English publishers," which he had "personally purchased in Britain."

(2.) That his insinuations about "leakage" in the museum (except in the roof, which is, indeed, serious,) is pure fiction.

(3.) That the Department has always had direct dealings with all the great publishers in England, as well as with the publishers in the United States and Canada, and does not order its books through any intermediate agency.

(4.) That none of its stock is purchased "second-hand," although Mr. Adam has laboured sedulously to lead us into that trap with himself, no doubt for the purpose, as it now appears, of being used by him against the department.

(5.) That no "selection" sent out is made in the manner he states; that catalogues and lists of new books for any out of stock are furnished to the school authorities, and no selection is ever made by officers of the department, except at the request of the parties ordering them.

[illegible]

(10.) That [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. Adam [illegible] book [illegible] public [illegible] class, &c. [illegible]

(11.) That the [illegible] but that [illegible] Attorney [illegible] and that [illegible] the economy [illegible] of the plan, that he [illegible] department.

(12.) That neither of the department has any pecuniary [illegible] whatever from the transactions of the Depository [illegible] except customs duties, and petty items as paid out [illegible] ment, on an accountable warrant being issued [illegible] but every other payment on its account is made [illegible] manufacturers, &c., (as well as to the [illegible] superannuated teachers, &c.,) by the Provincial [illegible] vouchers and vouchers previously furnished him: [illegible] received at the department from any and every source [illegible] the public treasury, into which was paid in [illegible] 1873, by the department, the sum of $51,480.

I am, sir, very truly yours,

Toronto, 20th Feb. [illegible] E. RYERSON.

(APPENDIX A.)

IV. LETTERS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

William R. Bigg, Esq., Inspector, N. [illegible] Mr. A[illegible] pamphlet was sent to me, as well as [illegible] and, on reading it, I was much ann[illegible] veyed in the assertion "that the circular sent [illegible] tors was intended to operate like a 'first warning' [illegible] journals to enforce obedience to bureaucratic d[illegible]

I am therefore much pleased to have the opportunity [illegible] circular affords, of stating most emphatically [illegible] so far as I am concerned, Mr. Adam's statement [illegible] sentation of my views and motives.

I simply gave a frank opinion on the question [illegible] me in your former circular, perfectly well aware that [illegible] condemn or approve the policy of sustaining the Depository, and also stated that the crusade was as much against the D[illegible] the Depository, and subsequent events [illegible] prediction.

With regard to the Depository, I wish to [illegible] ment, that I have frequently tested the [illegible] sale shop at Brockville, as compared with those of similar [illegible] the former, and have invariably found a difference [illegible] per cent in favour of the Depository irrespective of the 100 per cent Departmental allowance.

After I resigned the position of Principal of the [illegible] Public School of Brockville, I was succeeded by the [illegible] bent, Dr. Evans, and in the summer of 1872 he was [illegible] the Board of Trustees to expend the sum voted [illegible] the town book-sellers, if he found he could [illegible] vantageously, as at the Depository in Toronto taking [illegible] ation the aforesaid Departmental allowance of 100 [illegible]

As the result of Dr. Evans' investigation [illegible] or rather inclination, on his part [illegible] use in [illegible] sible. I may mention that the order was as usual [illegible] the Education Office, the Doctor [illegible] dependent of the 100 per cent [illegible] and more varied assortment [illegible]

rather to observe, that the town book sellers were aware of the contemplated purchase, and offered their wares for less than their regular prices.

Robert Kinney, Esq., M.D., Inspector, No. 2 Leeds. "I can reiterate my previously expressed opinion, namely, that School Corporations are almost unanimous in favor of the Depository. My experience has been that even without the additional 100 [illegible] purchased at the Department are cheaper than [illegible] from the trade. However I see no reason why the trade under suitable supervision should not be allowed to compete with the Depository in furnishing school requisites."

Rev. Geo. Blair, M.A., Inspector, No. 3 Leeds.—I have not seen Mr. Adam's pamphlet, but with reference to that particular passage in which he interprets, to suit his own views, the testimony of the Public School Inspectors, I have no hesitation in repeating distinctly and unequivocally, as my own unbiassed and often expressed opinion, that I consider the Book Depository at Toronto an essential and integral part of our School system, and that the book trade has no more right to demand the abolition of that establishment, as interfering with their business, than private teachers to demand the destruction of the Public School system itself. At the same time I express no opinion hostile to the mixed system proposed in the new School Bill, which, I think, would give the booksellers a fair chance to show what they can do, while the Depository would still remain as a safeguard to keep them in check.

Rev. John May, M.A., Inspector, Co. Carleton.—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your circular, asking me to say whether or not Mr. G. Mercer Adam has "correctly represented my views and motives" as expressed in my reply to your circular concerning the Educational Depository question.

Now, sir, I have great pleasure in stating that although I used strong language in my reply, I spoke from the very bottom of my heart. I desired to see the Depository maintained as it is. I still desire this. I trust no ruthless hand may be laid on what I deem one of the chief glories of our Educational system. There is no feature of that system of this country more excellent than this. It is the intellectual storehouse of Ontario, and it injures no one. We have not, hitherto, availed ourselves in this county of the advantages it affords to as great an extent as is desirable; but I was just laying my plans for public libraries, competitive examinations, &c., when lo! we are threatened with the destruction of the only means of procuring the necessary books. I say, advisedly, the *only* means, for if the books have to be purchased from the booksellers, they will never be purchased at all. It is with the utmost difficulty sometimes that I can persuade trustees to purchase even from the Depository, although it does allow 100 per cent.

The booksellers of Ottawa are noted for the high tone of their character, as well as their business ability and liberality. I have business relations with them all, and would be just as anxious to gain their good will as that of the Department. Indeed, sir, I will say frankly that could I be persuaded that a circular issuing from the Education Department, "was intended to operate like a 'first warning'" I should treat it with contempt.

The views I expressed I still hold. My motives were the good of education.

As for this Adam, I make little doubt that he is a true lineal descendant of the first of the name, who doubted his very Maker's motives, but believed the devil. Let us hope that he will still further imitate his namesake: and, being ashamed of his nakedness hide himself in the obscurity from which he has so suddenly, but not gloriously, emerged.

Rev. Wm. Ferguson, A.M., Inspector Co. Dundas.—I beg to say, without farther preamble, that a communication sent by a Mr. Adam, who is most wearisomely struggling to break down the Library and Instrument department of the Education Office, has reached me only to be put aside as an effort originating in the cupidity of self-interest, venting itself in the bitterness of commercial antagonism.

I did not deem it necessary to crowd upon the Education Office, expressions of satisfaction with the mode in which the various branches of that most valuable and ably administered Department were managed; but I find that silence is construed into dissatisfaction, and, therefore, must outspoken truth now assert its weight, and prove its power.

In my correspondence with the Department in behalf of schools I have ever found the readiest attention paid to my communications, and in my intercourse with school teachers and school trustees, I have never yet heard the slightest complaint; and this at a time when complaints of imaginary wrongs are as readily accepted as if they were real.

When I first began to teach in Canada I had [illegible] from the Edinburgh House of Oliver & Boyd, and in establishing [illegible] term. To-day, I might find in Canada all the school-books needed for the judicious and successful management of a High School.

In regard to the provision of books suitable for [illegible] libraries, I must say that if this were left [illegible] enterprise and judgment, stimulated and guided only by the hope of gain, the provision would be ever poor, the selection ever imperfect.

I have in my possession trade catalogues of leading Toronto and Montreal booksellers, and if I were called upon to form a school library of standard and profitable books, I would be obliged to compile it from three or four different stocks, entailing risk, and assuredly increased expense in correspondence and carriage. On the other hand, I would undertake to supply from the Department catalogue, a complete library of books, whether in science in its latest developments, or in literature from Chaucer to Tennyson. If I were called upon to supply a complete set of apparatus for the elucidation of physical fact, or the illustration of chemical research, the only reliable source of supply would be the Departmental depository. I have compared the prices stated in the Education catalogue, and I find them, even independent of the large discount from the Education office, very reasonable in price, and the editions of the most reliable standard and unmutilated examples.

In conclusion, I beg to say, that I would hold the abolition of the Book and Instrument Department, as an irrefragable evidence of a retrograde march in the Legislature of the land, and as serving to induce the *impression*, that individual efforts would be sufficient to supply general wants, in all their variety of necessity, and in all their distance of locality;—an *impression false as a miser's calculation, and baseless as a maniac's dream.*

T. O. Steele Esq., Inspector, Co. Prescott.—I am most happy to state in reply to your circular, in reference to the "pamphlet" of Mr. G. Mercer (*Mercenary*) Adam, that I have examined said "Pamphlet," and find that self-interest (*!*) seems to have so completely gained the mastery over him as to deprive him, (if he ever possessed any,) of every sense of *Honour, Justice* or *Truth.* The conclusions which you deduced from my reply to your circular, in reference to the "Educational Depository," were perfectly correct; and as the replies of my "Fellow-Inspectors," though couched in different language, presented in various forms the same general ideas, it follows that you must be correct, as regards them also. The uniformity in the views of those Inspectors most capable, from long experience, of judging in the matter, is a most convincing proof, of that which no one, not wilfully blinded, can fail to see. I have also to thank you for a copy of your "second and last letter" to Hon. O. Mowat, in reply to Mr. G. M. Adam, and feel that you have thereby torn away the last screening plank from his "Refuge of lies," and left him exposed in all his unsightly filthiness. For my part he is welcome to all the "*comfort*" possible but I think that even a *fresh* and *more copious draught* of his favourite "*Porter*," will hardly nerve him to make a further attack. I feel quite certain that the School Inspectors of Ontario, who like yourself, Respected Sir, have turned away from the allurements of pecuniary gain, presented by various departments of business, and have devoted themselves to the advancement of the Educational interests of their beloved Canada, can well afford to treat with contempt the base insinuations of a blinded mercenary. It cheers the hearts of us, who are but comparatively raw recruits, to see you after thirty years of active service, still boldly rushing into the fight to battle for the *right*. Believe me, you are surrounded by thousands in Ontario, who will hold up your hands until the final rout of the *Armies of the Aliens.*

A. McNaughton, Esq., Inspector, Co. Stormont.—My views concerning the Education Depository, were intended to express, not only the high estimation in which I held the 100 % aid, but also my conviction of the expediency of maintaining the Depository unimpaired for some time to come. I do not think that the institution should be indefinitely perpetuated, but I believe that the time when we can safely dispense with it, has not yet arrived. Great efforts are now made towards establishing the educational system of this Province upon a broad and solid foundation, and one of the most essential requisites towards the accomplishment of that object, is a convenient emporium, aided by Government, from which trustees may be able to equip their schools with maps and apparatus, and at which they may be encouraged to procure on easy terms, suitable prize and library books.

After a few years shall have elapsed, and our system of Public Schools shall have been placed upon a good footing, and when greater facilities shall exist for obtaining elsewhere such requisites as are now furnished by the Depository, the latter may be dispensed with, and whenever its maintenance shall appear to disinterested

Henry L. Slack, Esq., M. A., Inspector, Co. Lanark.—I [illegible] of Mr. Adam's are by no means a correct [illegible] Book Depository of the Education Department. As I [illegible] in my answer to your former circular, I believe the D[illegible] I went to Toronto [illegible] examinations and for a [illegible] I had an excellent opportunity of [illegible] the prices &c., &c., and had [illegible] making the selection, alike satisfactory to [illegible] interested in them. Having had a great deal [illegible] chasing books, I hesitate not to say that I could not have [illegible] satisfactorily served anywhere else. On one or two different occasions I have been obliged to make selections for prize [illegible] stores, where I have had great difficulty in procuring what would give satisfaction.

The establishment of the Depository, while it may [illegible] the Toronto bookseller, would I feel satisfied, exert a very beneficial influence on the country at large, and would result either in the dissemination of objectionable literature, or in what would [illegible] probable the non-dissemination of books of any kind for premiums and prizes among our country schools.

Rev. Thomas Garrett, Inspector, County Russell.—In reply to your circular inquiring "whether or not" Mr. Adam, has correctly presented inspectors views and motives in "Replies," I have the honour to state that previous to receiving this circular from you, I had carefully read that letter of Mr. Adam's, and especially that part on page nine, where the writer labours to cast an obloquy upon inspectors who, according to his assumption, were not wise enough or honourable enough to shrink from reply to an honest enquiry. I cannot see anything in all Mr. Adam's letter that does not require to be proven before it should be credited. Not knowing Mr. Adam, I can only suppose that he has written from effects of malice prepense, or at random; however it be, his timorous style on page nine, makes one think that he has taken Dr. Ryerson for his Jacob and the Inspectors for his Israel, and then in my humble opinion he has neither blessed them at all nor cursed them at all, though he has laboured hard and ostensibly—his object was not to bless—as to whether Mr. Adam has correctly represented my views and motives, I must say that the unmanly manner in which it is implied that the view was simply the "100 per cent," and the motive or incentive "Dr. Ryerson's intended first warning," is very far wide of the truth.

In my reply referred to, and on page 25 of the Chief Superintendant's Annual Report of 1871, there will be found sufficient to satisfy any unprejudiced mind, of the necessity for the existence, the continuance and the improvement of an educational depository affording facilities and advantages to our public schools, which we cannot attain at the book stores, even of those clamoring for monopoly, &c., this was my view in writing; and my motive *[illegible]* I leave the onus of proof contra on Mr. Adam.

John Amew, Esq., M.D., Inspector, Co. Frontenac.—Mr. Adam in his pamphlet on the Educational Depository recently presented to the Premier of Ontario, has misrepresented to him my views and motives, and has insulted all the Inspectors of the Province, who have given their views on this much vexed question, by intimating that the circular sent to the Inspectors was intended to operate like a "first warning" to the French journals, to secure obedience to "bureaucratic demands."

My views were given conscientiously, and from many years' experience.

Should the Government and the Members of the Legislature see fit to abolish the Depository, the cause of education of this Province would be retarded for many years to come, which state of things every true lover of his country and of education would not desire to see.

[illegible], Esq., Inspector, [illegible] Addington.—I beg to state, that the opinions given in my letter are those which I have frequently expressed publicly, and they are such as I would entertain and freely express, even though I had no official connection with the Educational Department.

G. D. Platt, Esq., Inspector, County [illegible]—In response [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. G. M. Adam [illegible] Depository of the Education Department. As I [illegible] in my answer to your former circular, I believe the D[illegible] [illegible] Mr. Adam [illegible] the selection, alike satisfactory to [illegible] interested in them. Having had a great deal [illegible] chasing books, I hesitate not to say that I could not have [illegible] satisfactorily served anywhere else. On one or two different occasions I have been obliged to make selections for prize [illegible] stores, where I have had great difficulty in procuring what would give satisfaction.

The establishment of the Depository, while it may [illegible] the Toronto bookseller, would I feel satisfied, exert a very beneficial influence on the country at large, and would result either in the dissemination of objectionable literature, or in what would [illegible] probable the non-dissemination of books of any kind for premiums and prizes among our country schools.

[illegible], Esq., [illegible]—[illegible] sent to the Attorney General [illegible] G. M. Adam, Esq., [illegible] the [illegible] sent to in relative to the Educational Depository [illegible] interference. [illegible] Mr. Adam [illegible] in this respect [illegible] Mr. [illegible] respects as will [illegible] answering the circular [illegible] that [illegible] opinions [illegible] Premier through the Education Department.

Perhaps one of the [illegible] of the Depository [illegible] It is an important question that [illegible] has thought at all on the subject [illegible] Province that the [illegible] means are [illegible] entertaining, instructive and [illegible] Depository, managed as it is [illegible] economic and efficient.

I would sincerely [illegible] country that would [illegible] largely and frugally [illegible] this Province with School Libraries. Mr. Adam [illegible] was first called into [illegible] Schools [illegible] schoolmaster, and [illegible]

[illegible], Esq., [illegible]—[illegible] approve of the 100 [illegible] that the schools of the country [illegible] well supplied with [illegible] as through the agency of the Depository [illegible] impugn it whose last.

[illegible] Reazin, Esq., [illegible]—[illegible] circular as asking for an honest expression [illegible] inspectors. As such I replied to it, and [illegible] Mr. Adam ought not to have misunderstood.

[illegible] M. [illegible], Esq., Inspector, Co. [illegible]—[illegible] regarding the Educational Depository [illegible] to state that I have read Mr. G. M. Adam's [illegible] Hon. Oliver Mowat [illegible] say that he has received my letter [illegible]

D. F. [illegible], Esq., Inspector [illegible]—[illegible] Mr. G. M. Adam [illegible] Mowat, [illegible] the Depository [illegible] you in your Annual Report of 1871 [illegible]

that I did not evade the question at issue on any g[illegible] assigned by Mr. Adam. Being at the time exceedingly busy, I did not feel able to give the commercial aspect of the Depo[illegible] thorough consideration as to venture an opinion upon the correct[illegible] of the principle upon which it is conducted, and confined myself [illegible] the facts or statistics of P. S. Libraries in my division of this county, and ex[illegible] protection of our Schools from bad literature that the Department should sanction or approve of all books to be put into the hands of the youth of the Pr[illegible]

When Mr. Adam asserts that no support is given by the Inspectors to the Depository, or, as he styles it, *the book-shop*, the assertion is so contrary to the fact, that he damages his position materially, and it becomes so apparent a piece of misrepresentation that a mere reference to some of their communications must convince any one that he has either not read them, or has been blinded by his foregone conclusion.

For my own part, I do not see how the Schools of the Province could have been supplied with books, maps and apparatus as they have been, without the Depository; and if the trade has now reached a stage when it can, under adequate supervision, supply School requisites as economically as the Depository, there can be no ground for objecting on the one hand to the continuance of the Depository, or, on the other hand, to throwing, as Mr. Mowat proposes, the supply of books and apparatus open to the trade, with this provision, that no work shall be introduced into any library or School without the sanction of competent authority.

D. J. McKinnon, Esq., Inspector, Co. Peel.—I have the honour to state, in reply to your circular, referring to the Depository question, and Mr. G. M. Adam's letter thereon, that if I did not in my former letter on this subject, exp[illegible] the opinion that the "Government book-shop" should be maintained, *I can d*[illegible] If trustees were all as good judges of books as they generally are of ploughs, or if all booksellers were as honest as no other men are, the half and half scheme now proposed by the Government might do: but taking men and things as we find them, I am of opinion that it will be impossible to prevent fraud except by the institution of a system of supervision over purchases, which would cost ten times the trouble and expense of the Depository. Library books, maps, &c., might be examined by the Inspector at his semi-annual visit, and the invoices certified to, but as for prize books, how are trustees to tell which amongst a dozen or two editions of, say Scott's Poems, is the one catalogued in the *Journal of Education?* How easy it would be for a bookseller, if one could be found capable of doing such a thing, to substitute a $1.25 book, for one sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction at $1.50. The abuse would soon become so crying, that the Government would be obliged to withdraw the 100 % grant entirely.

You will pardon me if I decline to notice Mr. Adam's insinuations, as to the *motives* which actuated the Inspectors of this Province in expressing the opinions they did, with reference to the Depository. If the members of the Legislature agree with Mr. Adam, they had better sweep out of existence such a set of "reeds shaken with the wind."

Robert Little, Esq., Inspector, County Halton.—I have read with care the remarks of Mr. Adam brought under my notice. They may be divided into two classes:

1st. Those relating to the views taken by the Inspectors relating to the Depository question.

2nd. Those relating to their views of Dr. Hodgins' circular of the 15th April last.

In regard to the first point, I may say that as I understood the circular, the question submitted to the Inspectors did not relate to the policy of continuing the 100 % grant at all, but to the policy of supplying our Public and High Schools with School requisites through the Agency of the Depository. The wording of the circular ("The policy of supplying, &c., from the Depository having been questioned,") justifies the view I took of the question. My remarks were accordingly based on the assumption that the 100 % grant would be maintained whether School requisites should be obtained through the Agency of the Depository, or through other agencies. I therefore did not even refer to "the maintenance of the 100 % grant." It was not in my view in the question. My opinion was given in the following words: "Instead of abolishing the Depository, greater facilities should be given to its working."

In regard to the second point, I consider it an unworthy imputation on the honour and independence of the Inspectors, to ascribe the views elicited from them on this question, as having been obtained by coercion in the shape of "a first warning" from the Department.

In the passage quoted from Mr. Adam's pamphlet, my views and motives are both misrepresented.

J. H. Smith Esq., Inspector, Co. Wentworth. I [illegible] to state in reply to your circular that the views that [illegible] circular, from Dr. Hodgins, concerning the D[illegible] are such, that I think no person need misunderstand [illegible]

In regard to my motives, I may say that I was neither actuated by fear on the one hand, nor by favour on the other [illegible] to give you the views of Trustees and Teachers, who [illegible] present actively engaged in carrying out the details of [illegible] Law.

R. Harcourt, Esq., M.A., Inspector, Co. H[illegible] your circular *re* Mr. Mercer Adam's crusade against the P[illegible] Depository, you ask (*A*) for views and (*B*) for motives, in reference to my reply printed by you in a pamphlet. My motive was merely to give you what I deemed to be the information your circular [illegible] for, without suppression, extenuation or exaggeration. In writing my reply, the "view" contained in it was mainly based on the 100 per cent condition. Of course I had no idea of the manner in which the Government intended to "re-organize" the Depository. I deem their scheme just, and think that whether it will work with advantage or not, will depend principally upon the action of School Trustees. I regard your maps, tablets &c. as good, and [illegible] that many trustees in their anxiety to purchase what they call cheap articles, would be content with something quite inferior. Competition may place it within their reach to buy inferior goods, and this I regard as the weak point in the proposed scheme. Mr. Adam would have acted both more wisely and more charitably towards the Inspectors had he not made use of the phrase "more outspoken than their colleagues."

J. J. Wadsworth, Esq., M.A., Inspector, County Norfolk.—In reply to your circular regarding Mr. Adam's statements, I have only to say that his insinuations are contemptible. No reasonable man can believe that moral cowardice prevented 58 inspectors out of 60 from denouncing the Depository. Mr. Adam kn[illegible] very well that the inspectors do not hold their positions at the pl[illegible] the Department, and that their salaries are fixed by statute. I have not yet had time to read all my fellow Inspectors' General Reports for 1872, but I know that in those I have read, the complaints of the people reflecting on the policy of the Department, are clearly set forth as anything else. What is equally important, the Department has in all cases, so far as my experience goes, published the reports *entire*. There has been no garbling. Censure and praise of the school system have alike been given to the public. Mr. Adam never made a more foolish and discreditable blunder, than when he sought to impute dishonourable motives to a class of public officers who, thanks to the wisdom of the Legislature, are placed above the necessity of resorting to misrepresentation and chicanery.

James H. Ball, Esq., M.A., Inspector, Co. Welland.—Mr. Adam has *not* correctly represented to the Honourable Attorney-General my views in regard to the policy of maintaining the Depository of the Educational Department.

In my reply to your circular, I stated that "I regard that policy as a very judicious one, and one that ought to be maintained as part of our educational system;" and I do not feel at all responsible for Mr. Adam's assurance to the Hon. Attorney-General, so far as it affects myself, that the letters of the Inspectors give no support to the Depository.

As to the "moral courage" of the Inspectors, I am not aware whether Mr. Adam was requested by the Hon. Attorney-General, for the information of himself and the Legislature, to give his views. Suffice it to say, however, that I have no idea the Inspectors are so tame a body of people as his reflections imply; and that I regard his effusions as gross effrontery.

I also maintain that the Inspectors are in a position to pass an unbiassed judgment on Public School questions, at least in the matter of the Depository. For myself, I gave my views not only as an Inspector whose duty it is to consult the interests of the schools under his charge, in any action he may take affecting them, but also as a Canadian who feels an interest in the welfare of his country and would desire so to act as would be most to his country's good; and were I called upon by the Hon. Attorney-General to express my views both as an Inspector and as a Canadian, I would *ex animo et corde*, say—BY ALL MEANS MAINTAIN THE DEPOSITORY.

John B. Somerset, Esq. Inspector, Co. Lincoln.—I have the honour to state in reply to your circular, containing an extract from Mr. G. M. Adam's letter to Hon. Mr. Mowat, that I cannot see any ground whatever for Mr. Adam's assumption that the circular of the Department to Inspectors regarding the Depository "was intended to operate like a 'first warning' to French journals to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands." I am quite certain that it was not so regarded by those to whom it was sent, and I fail to see, from reading the replies to that circular, that the Inspectors

[illegible]

M[illegible] the pamphlet "on the [illegible] addressed to the Honourable Oliver Mowat, M.P.P. [illegible] and Premier of Ontario, by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, a [illegible] Bookseller. I have the honour to state that Mr. G. M[illegible] your circular, a[illegible] [illegible]ry, as published in the Annual Report of the Chief Superintend[illegible] of my remarks almost exclusively, its main[illegible] among other things, to the introduction into our Sch[illegible] and School [illegible]aries of inferior books by irresponsible Bookse[illegible] reply I had no other view or motive.

[illegible] Kingston, Inspector. [illegible] characterizing the imputation made in said letter to me, as one of the inspectors, as anything short of a gross and unwarrantable slander. I affirm most decidedly that Mr. G. M. Adam has misrepresented in said letter of his, both my views and motives concerning the reply written by me in 1873, in answer to your queries in connection with the Depository. [illegible] Depository is contemptuously styled, has done an excellent work in connection with our Public Schools, and I am still in favour of its being continued.

I may state here that the board of examiners for this county, five in number, met one evening last week to consider the new Bill, [illegible] an Act to amend the Public and High School Laws of Ontario," and reported the results to the Hon. O. Mowat, M.P.P. They, the board, unanimously concluded [illegible] things, that clauses 69 to 71, inclusive, of said Bill, *be struck out.* This meeting was neither held, nor the suggestion recommended, on account of "First warning to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands."

Respected sir, I sympathise with you and the other gentlemen of the department who are so ruthlessly and wantonly slandered, without your having the opportunity of vindicating yourselves to the country, which I believe you could do if Government had or would appoint a committee to investigate the working of the Depository.

A. D. Fordyce, Esq., Inspector, No. 2 Wellington.—In reply to your circular respecting Mr. Adam's pamphlet and subject involved, the few remarks made by me, and to be found in the correspondence on the subject of the Depository under the head of remarks of the Rev. J. Kilgour, (our letters having been accidentally transposed,) expressed my honest convictions of the necessity of such authorized supervision of works intended for use in the manner indicated, and my unbiased opinion of the maintenance of such a Depository, being a public benefit.

Thomas Gordon Esq., Inspector, North Grey.—I have to say with reference to the "Depository" question, which is being so keenly discussed at the present time, that my views are entirely in favour of its maintenance. From what I have been able to glean of the views of [illegible]hool section Trustees on the subject, they are in favour of its being continued for the following reasons. They can obtain the supplies which they require with certainty and with a minimum of trouble; they are relieved from the (to them) onerous task of making suitable selections of prize books, when they wish to obtain such, as they have only to intimate to the Department the general nature of their requirements, in order to have a selection made for them. They know beforehand the exact cost of the maps and apparatus they desire to obtain, and they have an assurance that prices will not be raised upon them, should such an exigency as a somewhat short supply arise.

The two first of these considerations should receive great weight in favour of so large a body of unpaid public servants, as constitute the School corporations of the Province.

Among School Trustees who have given the subject any consideration, the crusade against the Depository is regarded as having originated in a desire on the part of the book trade, to secure the abolition of the only institution in the country which can exercise any control over the price to be charged for scho[illegible] books and apparatus, and which can prevent such price from being raised beyond a reasonable paying limit. I have myself heard booksellers complain of being obliged to sell books containing so much matter as some of the books do, at the price which they can now charge for them, and this complaint was not based on an allegation, that there was not a profit to the seller, but on the assertion that the profit was not what they thought large enough on such books.

[illegible] yield to the demand of [illegible] necessaries. What the diff[illegible] [illegible]self. I am sure that in my pa[illegible] [illegible] should remove any seeming rea[illegible] who are said to ha[illegible] questions." [illegible] which I have expressed, a[illegible] had I seen the necessity [illegible]

W. Ferguson, Esq., Inspector, South Grey. [illegible] cular I beg to state th[illegible] my views and [illegible] utility of the Educational Depository and [illegible] on the country [illegible]

I may further state that [illegible] Department in as[illegible]

Geo. W. Ross, Esq., M.P., Inspector, No. 1 Lambton. [illegible] quest in regard to my statements about the Book D[illegible] received. The opinio[illegible] I hope this will be satisfact[illegible]

A. Dewar, Esq., Inspector, North Huron.—My latest [illegible] ing of the continuance of the "Educational D[illegible] possible means be interpreted to refer merely [illegible] the 100 per cent. grant, as stated by Mr. G. M. A[illegible] pblet addressed to the Hon. Oliver Mowat.

Many of our teachers are young and consequent[illegible] tle acquaintance with general literature. M[illegible] tees, good men too, won[illegible] in making a selection of book[illegible] pages of a catalogue including all kinds of literature. I [illegible] reason, I considered then, as I do now, that to abolish the D[illegible] tory, as proposed by Mr. Adam, would be a [illegible]

The only motive I had in sustaining the Depositor[illegible] a desire to prevent the spread of literature of [illegible]

John R. Miller Esq., Inspector, South Huron.—I [illegible] to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, having ref[illegible] statements recently made by Mr. Mercer Adam to the Honoura[illegible] the Attorney-General.

As I am forty miles from home, and have [illegible] former circular, I cannot particularly refer to it. H[illegible] no hesitation in saying that my reply was frankly given without [illegible] pressure brought to bear upon me by yours [illegible] and that my remarks were the result of personal experience [illegible] tending over a period of twelve years, during which time I [illegible] had occasion to do business with the Depository for my T[illegible] and others.

When your circular was received, I certa[illegible] solicited an expression of my opinion, as an expe[illegible] whether it was advisable to retain the Educational Deposit[illegible] connection with our Educational system or not, and my a[illegible] was, that I thought it to be essentially necessar[illegible] carrying out of our work, and at the same time gave illustra[illegible] to prove the decided advantages to be gained by buying at the [illegible] partment.

My only motive in making such a statement, was [illegible] of our schools in particular, and the public in general. The E[illegible] tional Depository has done good [illegible] good service to the country, and I su[illegible] be done to curtail that usefulness. I[illegible] paratus is permitted to pass away from the D[illegible] up by any and every one, [illegible] has not been secured to such a great [illegible] cult to secure. With reference to [illegible]

ways impressed me with the fact, that those in charge made most admirable selections.

In conclusion, I regret very much that Mr. Adam's estimate of the Inspectors of this Province is so very low, but he may rest assured, that they possess more independence than he gives them credit for, and further, that it is their independent spirit that has cut him so severely

William Alexander, Esq., Inspector, Co. Perth.—I have just read a letter full of gross misrepresentations and evil surmisings, from Mr. M. Adam to the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Attorney-General. I observe that Mr. Adam, in this letter, does not attempt to give a truthful description of the system he denounces, but endeavours to forestall the opinion of the representatives of the people by using general epithets of reproach, and signals of alarm

My attention has been more particularly directed to certain statements found on the 8th and 9th pages, and which are summarized in the margin as "irrelevant opinions quoted" and "dealings with the Inspectors." Here we find him saying that "The letters of the Inspectors relate to the maintenance of the 100 per cent. grant, of which they unanimously approve." So far as it goes, this is true, and as Mr. Adam recommends the same, he must have been pleased with this opinion of the Inspectors In the next sentence he states that "No support is given to the book-shop at all." Why, then, these letters fully endorse the views of Mr. Adam. They are just such evidence as he wants. But why does he only re-publish one of them, Mr. Porter's? Why does he not publish all of them, or quote from them indiscriminately? Why, because when he wrote the statement quoted above, he was deliberately stating what he knew to be false because he knew that no honest and intelligent man could draw any such inference from the letters of the Inspectors because he knew that these letters advocated in very decided language the maintenance of the Depository or *book-shop* on its present footing, and pointed out that the abolition of the Depository would be regarded by the people of Ontario as a direct sacrifice of their interests for the prospective advantage of a few. It is unnecessary, however, for me to contradict this statement, as Mr Adam himself contradicts it in the same sentence, where he says "two of them (the Inspectors), * * * * * have had the moral courage to denounce the whole system," and when he makes such honourable mention of the few Inspectors who declined or neglected to give any opinion on the subject.

The contemptible and contemptuous manner in which Mr. Adam speaks of all the other Inspectors, is no doubt attributable to his ignorance of the powers of the Chief Superintendent of Education, and the duties of the Council of Public Instruction. Had he any acquaintance with the school law, he would have known that no Inspector is under any constraint to maintain "silence on vexed questions," or to give "unconditional support to *equivocal* measures." Mr. Adam's interpretation of the circular sent to Inspectors, "that it was intended to operate like a *first warning* to the French journals, to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands," is as false as the construction he puts upon the Inspectors' letters. As I read this circular, it contains this one plain request. "He will thank you to give him the benefit of your observation and the results of your experience on this matter, with a view to submit them to the Executive Government and Legislature."

In this proper request, the suspicious soul of Mr. Adam discovers a daring attempt to gag the Inspectors of the Province, and to prevent an honest expression of their views, and he sneeringly states that *only two* have had the moral courage to resist this outrage

No doubt Mr. Adam thinks that he did a clever thing in attempting to create an impression that this circular was of a dictatorial nature, and that the replies of the Inspectors were consequently mere echoes of the Departmental will, but without doubt, he will come to the conclusion before he sees the end of this matter, that "honesty is the best policy." Not one of the Inspectors whose opinions Mr. Adam affects to despise, but has more knowledge of the educational wants of the people, and their wishes in regard to the Depository, than Mr. Adam. And I believe that the views of the Inspectors as expressed in their letters to the Department will have far more weight with the Legislature than the letter of Mr. Adam, which in many particulars has not the merit of being true In writing this letter, I desire not to charge Mr. Adam with that "pecuniary greed" which Mr. Porter says "is a very powerful motive," but to protest against his impudent attempt to misrepresent the almost unanimous opinion of the Inspectors of the Province on this subject

A. F. Butler, Esq., Inspector, Co. Elgin.—I unhesitatingly state that Mr. G. Mercer Adam in his pamphlet to the Premier of Ontario, referring to the published letters of the Public School Inspectors, grossly misrepresents our views concerning the Depository. For proof, I ask any unprejudiced person to compare the tone and spirit of these letters with the statement of Mr. Adam,—"No support is given to the book shop at all."

I believed then, as now, that the abolition of the Depository would be a great calamity to the Schools, and I further believe that any person who does not see in the above mentioned letters a mass of evidence strongly in favour of the continuance of the Depository, and of the maintenance of the government grant to this, and to this alone, must be blinded by self interest to the plain meaning of language

James Bell, Esq., Inspector, South Essex.—In reply to your circular I beg leave to say as follows. For my own part I am not conscious of having, in my answer to your circular respecting the Depository, acted under intimidation, which appears to be implied in Mr. Adam's letter to have been the ruling motive with the Inspectors for the greater part. Mr. Adam appears to have left out of view the fact that County Councils appoint the Inspectors and may dismiss them at pleasure, without cause shown whereas the Governor in Council (that is the Education Department) can dismiss them for misconduct and inefficiency alone, so that in view of the safety of his position an Inspector is likely to feel himself more dependent on the said County Council, that is on the popular voice, than on the Department of Public Instruction. Neither do I believe that any one connected with the Department would desire to insult the Inspectors by presenting to their minds a motive so degrading. I think I expressed no opinion of the main subject, other than in respect of its immediate bearing on the education of the young, unless that I ventured to observe that possibly the objection to the Depository advanced by dealers in books might in some measure be met by the observation that, by the taste for reading being encouraged by the Government bonus, a growing demand and a larger market for books are thus created for the benefit of those interested in the sale of books

T. Girardot, Esq., Inspector, North Essex.—As far as I am concerned, Mr. Mercer Adam, has entirely misrepresented my views in his pamphlet on the Education Depository. What I said about the Depository, I said in earnest conviction, and not to please the Department of Education; and I cannot but repeat that after my own experience in the matter, the Depository of books maps and apparatus, at the Education Office, has done and is still doing a great deal of good.

E. B. Harrison, Esq., Inspector, Co. Kent. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association will prove that, Inspectors, in common with High School Masters, and Public School Teachers, have been guided not by "bureaucratic demands," but by a sense of the duty they owe to the cause of education. It was in this sense, I sent my reply.

The Depository question has been frequently brought under my notice, in consequence of my long connection with the Public Schools of Ontario, and the result is, a view of exerting a beneficial influence at the most critical time in the lives of our children, so as to enable them to become thinking men, and thinking women, and preventing evils which would, in all probability, arise from the selections made by a majority of the Boards of Public School Trustees, from the catalogues or otherwise of competing Booksellers or their Agents. I consider the principle of maintaining a Provincial Educational Depository to be sound—faults in its details can be corrected.

W. Carlyle, Esq., Inspector, Co. Oxford.—I notice Mr. Adam, of Adam, Stevenson & Co., in his pamphlet "Reform in the Education Office," attempts to divest of its force the verdict rendered by a large number of Inspectors on the subject of maintaining the Book and Map Depository in connection with the Department.

I beg to state so far as I am concerned, that your circular was not regarded in any sense as *dictatorial*, but simply interrogative. The views embodied in my reply I held while teaching, and I still maintain their correctness. Mr. Adam's pamphlet is but an additional proof that what I stated is correct.

Professor Dupuis, Inspector, City of Kingston.—In reply to your letter, I have the honor to state, that with all due deference to Mr. Adam, I can boldly say, that not standing in any awe of the Department I had no *motive* in writing what I did, except that of stating what I candidly believed to be the *truth*.

J. B. Boyle, Esq., Inspector, City of London.—I am truly sorry to be called upon to notice the insulting remarks of Mr. Adam, in reference to the spirit of servility and the want of manly independence, he imputes to the Inspectors of the Province. To put ourselves upon our defence against such an attack as this—coarse, baseless and malicious—is doing too much honour to a character so essentially small; and so far as I can judge, this course is not required. If either the Members of the Ontario Government or those of the Legislature are inclined to take Mr. G. Mercer Adam's estimate of the Inspectors of this Province, then nothing that we can

say on our own behalf, is likely to change [illegible] estimate. On the other hand, if they have penetration enough to ascribe the [illegible] to [illegible] the paper [illegible] upon [illegible] in fact [illegible] story. In either case, I am quite prepared to leave the matter [illegible] hands of the people's Representatives, convinced that most of them will be able to place the just value upon an attack of this kind, emanating from a quarter so unlikely to be disinterested.

In my reply to your circular, I expressed simply my own convictions, and I am really unaware of having been biased in my opinions by either fear or favour, antipathy or predilection. It is no duty of mine to defend the Inspectors generally, still I may venture to say, that in most cases, their opinions are entitled to more weight on a question of this kind, than is that of Mr. Adam. The Inspectors have neither personal nor pecuniary interest at stake. Mr. Adam has both; the former are actuated by an honest desire to promote the cause of education in Ontario, the latter to promote his own business operations; the former see in the question at issue, only the good of the country, Mr. Adam sees nothing beyond the gains of "My Firm."

There can be no difficulty therefore, in determining whose opinions, on a subject of this kind, are the more likely to be independent, and the more deserving of respect. But apart altogether from the question of independence, the Inspectors are certainly the more likely to understand the requirements of the country, the feelings of the people regarding the work of the Depository, and to form a correct estimate of the advantages of the system, judged exclusively by its results as an educational force or agency.

I am sorry I cannot indulge myself in a critical examination of the replies of the two gentlemen, who are complimented as being the only independent and outspoken among us. I fear much, that a careful analysis of the Rev. Mr. Porter's letter would show a principle permeating its every sentence, very much at variance with that for the possession of which, Mr. Adam gives him credit. But the Rev. gentlemen is in safe hands when he is in yours, and there I shall have to leave him for the present.

Rev. Robert Torrance, Inspector, Town of Guelph.—In a letter addressed by Mr. Adam, to the Hon. Attorney-General Mowat, published in pamphlet form, under the title of "Reform in the Education Office," of which a copy has been sent me, I find on pages eight and nine, when dealing with the replies of Public School Inspectors, what I consider a most unjustifiable misrepresentation of my views and motives as one of those Inspectors. My judgment has long been that the Educational Depository is a most useful branch of the Department. To this conviction I have frequently given expression both publicly and privately. It is in no respect altered. I stated it lately at a meeting of the Board of Examiners for the County of Wellington, which had been called for the purpose of considering the School Bill, now before the Ontario Legislature, and at which a resolution was unanimously carried, [illegible] of the sections of that Bill, proposing to change the present mode of conducting the Depository. In giving my opinion, I repudiate the charge of being in any degree influenced by "bureaucratic demands" to give "unconditional support to equivocal measures." Silence I have not maintained, the other alternative mentioned in the pamphlet; nor have I, in all my connection with the Education Department, extending over a period of many years, had any pressure made to bear on me to bias my judgment. It has always been honestly and independently formed and freely expressed when required.

Rev. E. Patterson M. A., Inspector, Town of Stratford.—In reply to your circular, I beg to say, that Mr. G. M. Adam in his pamphlet addressed to the Honourable Attorney-General of Ontario, has entirely misrepresented my views and motives, as stated in the answer which I returned to your circular of last April, in regard to the Educational Department. I said that in my opinion, the policy of supplying the Public and High Schools of the Province with library and prize books &c., through the Depository in connection with the Education Department, is a sound one, that its adoption has been the means of conferring a great boon upon the people at large, both parents and children, and that I should regret to see it interfered with by the Legislature.

Mr. Adam's assertion, that your former circular was intended as "a warning to enforce obedience" on the part of the Inspectors, to "bureaucratic demands, either by silence, or by unconditional support of equivocal measures, and that *many of them preferred the latter alternative*," sufficiently indicates that he regards the Inspectors as a time-serving body of men, and wholly destitute of that moral courage, which is essential to an independent expression of opinion. I am greatly mistaken if the Inspectors w[illegible] posed to view his statement as insulting in the extreme. As [illegible] I am personally concerned with it, I can assure him, that [illegible] [illegible] largely upon his imagination

[illegible], Inspector, Town of [illegible].—Mr. Adam's pamphlet has been in my hands for some days, and I had read the paragraph [illegible] which is quoted in your circular. In his attack on the [illegible] Depository, the writer has insulted a large number of your correspondents. If the Public School Inspectors have not the "moral courage" to express freely their opinion on any question affecting the educational interests of our Province, they are certainly very unfit for the responsibilities of their vocation. I respectfully repeat my conviction that it is for the interest of our schools to have a Depository in connection with the Department of Public Instruction. As to motives, I am conscious of none, apart from a [illegible] for the promotion of sound education

Rev. A. McColl, Inspector, Town of Chatham.—I have read my former communication [illegible] then gave expression, remain still unchanged. I supposed, that the information, at first as to the opinions of the Inspectors, was in good faith, solicited from regard to the educational interests of the country. My reply was dictated in that spirit. It certainly did not seem to me, that the circular was intended [illegible] a "first warning." To me it seems clear beyond a doubt that the state of education in the Province, would be far inferior to what it is, were it not for the encouragement given, and the facilities afforded by the Government grant of 100 for the supply of the schools with maps, apparatus, prize books, and libraries. That all have not availed themselves of these facilities to the extent that might be desired, is not the fault of the system. That so much has been accomplished is ground for congratulation.

If the proper tone and vigor of the mind depend on the [illegible] provided for it, if an abundant supply of suitable [illegible] easy of access) be deemed requisite, if a *general* (I [illegible] *absolute*) uniformity, in any system, and, particularly [illegible] educational system, be a great desideratum, I do [illegible] part, how these advantages can be so easily and effectually [illegible] as by a Depository, wisely regulated. To avoid prolixity I may state that I substantially concur in the statements contained in the "Note by the Education Department" page 61, in the pamphlet, "Opinions of Experienced Educationists, &c."

James Stratton Esq., Inspector, Town of Peterboro'.—In reply to your circular in the matter of the Depository controversy, I beg to state that Mr. G. Mercer Adam's imputations against the Inspectors' reports, are without foundation. I consider them a libel on the character of these gentlemen. He, for the most selfish purposes misrepresents them. So far as my report is concerned, there was no "enforced obedience," being entirely free to report what I considered would be for the benefit of the schools, and useful information for the Departmental officers, all of which was written without restraint or fear. I am also free to state, that I believe the [illegible] of Mr. Adam and the book trade in Toronto, are purely mercenary, and not dictated by any desire to benefit the country. I [illegible] fully persuaded that if his views succeed, the people will find in few years, that an inferior class of books will be forced upon [illegible] and that the maps and apparatus kept in stock [illegible] will not be equal to those furnished by the De[illegible] tees and teachers will be imposed on, as they are not always [illegible] best judges of those articles. The result of agitations like that now got up by Mr. Adam, is not as fully kept sight of, as the [illegible] less cry about a Government book store

Rev. George Bell, LL.D., Ex-Inspector, Town of Clifton.—In reply to your circular, I beg to state that the paragraph quoted from Mr. Adam's pamphlet does not correctly represent my views [illegible] reply to the circular sent to me on the subject of [illegible] Depository. I never understood that circular as [illegible] "to enforce obedience to bureaucratic demands, either [illegible] on vexed questions, or by unconditional support of equivocal measures." I have never considered myself under any such [illegible] gation as these words express. On the contrary, I have [illegible] considered both the ability to form independent opinions, [illegible] perfect right freely to express them, as essential [illegible] of Local Superintendent or Inspector. During [illegible] years of my taking part in administering the School Law [illegible] capacities, whether as a member of a County Board [illegible] prominent part in the discussions at County Conventions in correspondence with the Department, or in private conference with [illegible] officials, I have *always* fully and freely [illegible] as fully and freely when these differed [illegible] with, those of the Chief Superintendent

(APPENDIX B.)

V. MR. G. MERCER ADAM'S "SLANDERS."

To the Editor of the Mail.

SIR, As you have inserted part of Mr. G. Mercer Adam's "letter" to the Attorney-General, I will thank you to insert the following reply, addressed also to Hon. Mr. Mowat. I have sent a copy of my letter to the *Globe*, with a similar request.

Believe me, dear sir,
Very truly yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, 11th Feb.

To the Honourable Attorney-General Mowat, M.P.P.

SIR,—Having to-day obtained a copy of an extraordinary "Letter" (as the sequel will show) addressed to you on behalf of the "book trade," by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, a bookseller of this city, I desire to say a few words in regard to that part of it which refers to myself.

In these [illegible] of multiplied and indiscriminate "slander," few men in a public station need hope to escape. Mr. G. Mercer Adam, having (as his letters to the Department will show) persistently but unsuccessfully pressed some of his wonderfully cheap wares (like others before him) upon the Education Department, has turned upon me as the supposed author of his wrongs; and, in order to sustain the bad and selfish cause which he has espoused, he has applied language to me for which there is no foundation or warrant.

Not content with imposing upon you (as will be fully proved at the proper time) a tissue of misrepresentation as well as "fiction" and "romance," he ventures upon a charge of "corruption" (so favourite a term with certain writers) against the Education Department, and seeks to involve me in it.

The writer of this "Letter" in his laboured attempt to substantiate his disreputable charge, counts up with great fervor, as my income, not only every penny which I have received for years, but every penny which any member of my family may have lawfully and honourably obtained, after having given full value for it (as the Parliamentary documents from which he quotes would abundantly prove). If every man's income for services rendered by himself were thus summed up, many would be astonished to find how rich they were, and the income tax would also be greatly benefited by the discovery. Mr. Adam, in this connection, has found it convenient to suppress the fact that five years ago, owing to a pressure which Mr. Blake brought to bear upon the Government, (and probably prompted from this same quarter,) my salary was without notice (and against the strong remonstrance of members of the House and one of its committees) suddenly reduced five hundred dollars ($500) a year. To compensate for this loss and manifest injustice, the late Hon. Attorney-General Macdonald authorized me to perform (after rigid inquiry, as was his manner) certain map revision, &c., and he agreed to pay a reduced price for it.

I can, therefore, tell the writer of this "Letter" and the "Trade," that every cent of income which I receive, has either been passed by Order in Council before payment, or has been directly authorized by the Attorney-General, for the time being. Further, that every fraction which I, or any one belonging to me, ever received, is duly recorded and audited in the proper office, either in Ottawa or in Toronto.

Mr. Adam may, in his zeal, attempt to impose fiction upon you as fact; but he will scarcely be able, I think, to make you accept the conclusion which his misstatements of facts, as well as the [illegible] (on page four of his pamphlet,) imply, that the Government, the audit office, and the Attorney-General were parties to the "corruption" which he alleges. I defy him to prove his charge, and until he does so, I hold him accountable as a traducer.

I have lived more than forty years in Canada, (and nearly thirty in this city,) have occupied, before coming here, positions of trust and responsibility in the most respectable mercantile establishments; and I defy Mr. Adam, or any man in Canada, to lay his finger on a single act of mine in these matters in regard to which I would not challenge the most rigid scrutiny. I will not, therefore, allow my name and my personal honour to be smirched by any man, especially by one who can only justify his unmanly assaults by most selfish and unworthy motives.

What does Mr. Adam care for the character or want of character of the Education, or any other Department, so long as he can, by damaging it, hope to place himself in a better position to pocket a few paltry dollars more, than he could otherwise do with all the pressure which he has been able to bring to bear on this matter?

Let the Government, if they please, by all means, sweep away this "standing menace to the book trade of the country," but let them not do so on the ruin of character, or on the baseless slander of an "interested" man, who, with others, for years has hitherto, without success, employed every possible means, both through a powerful press, and by means of the personal influence of leading men, to effect a purely selfish object.

It is not my province to enter into the detail of Mr. Adam's pamphlet. That will no doubt be effectively done by the head of the Department. I may say, however, and I know well of what I affirm, that the Department will be able to disprove every material statement which Mr. Adam has ventured to put forth. I am glad that his floating gossip, and the slander of years, has at length been reduced to writing. It can now be met, while in the other form it could never be reached. But I may say that some of the most important of his statements never had any foundation in fact and are even the reverse of truth.

I may, if occasion offers, address you respectfully on the subject of the anomalous, and unsatisfactory position and prospects of the Civil Service of Ontario—of which, I believe, I am one of the oldest, if not the oldest, member in Toronto. It is too much the fashion to regard these gentlemen as a target for every man's arrow, that because they are *paid* "officials" and "servants" they must therefore sit silent under every indignity, and be subject to such contumely and attack as certain parties may choose to indulge in. It is time that that species of unmanly warfare should be resisted, though it cannot be prevented. To the head of the Government the Civil Service has, however, a right to look for protection in such matters; and I trust, too, that its interests and future efficiency will not be overlooked in any measure, which I understand you propose to devise on the subject.

Believe me, my dear sir,
Very respectfully yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, Feb. 10.

VI. MR. G. MERCER ADAM AND MR. LOVELL.

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—I regret that I accidently overlooked one portion of Mr. G. Mercer Adam's slanderous attack in my letter of yesterday.

He says:—

"One of the chief officials, enjoying the special favour of the Council, actually sold his copyright to a publisher for a good round sum, but when the caprice or intrigues of those who move the wheels of this machine originated the order for the unconditional sacrifice of their educational property, the same publisher was made to surrender the right he had acquired, *virtually, to the official from whom he had made the purchase.*"

My reply to this "slander" is threefold.

First.—The "caprice and intrigues" to which Mr. G. M. Adam refers were fully discussed and exposed, as he knows well, in the famous "Brown-Campbell crusade against the Educational Department," published in 1866. Nor are these influences dormant yet against this same "educational property."

Secondly.—The surrendered copyright belongs to the Council, with which property, proceedings and decisions, I have nothing to do, *and that in no shape or form have I the slightest interest or control over a single text-book sanctioned or controlled by the Council.*

Thirdly.—Personally and privately I opposed as strongly as it was proper for me to do the surrender of these copyrights.

Lastly.—So strong is my sense of the high character and honourable dealing of Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal—to whom Mr. G. M. Adam refers—that were it in my power I would have freely presented him with the copyright of any book which I may have written at his suggestion. As it was, the "round sum" referred to would have been much rounder were it not for my personal appreciation of Mr. Lovell's enterprise, zeal, and sterling worth. I have the assured conviction—knowing him as I do, though I have not exchanged a word with him on the subject—that Mr. Lovell would repudiate with scorn the base insinuation which Mr. G. M. Adam has made against me in this matter.

Believe me,
Very truly yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, Feb. 12.

VII. MR. G. MERCER ADAM'S "PRESSURE."

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—Mr. G. M. Adam seeks to break the force of my statement, (which the Chief Superintendent reiterates in your paper of to-day, with proof,) that he "persistently but unsuccessfully *pressed*

some of his wonderfully cheap wares (like others before him) upon the Educational Department," by showing that I sent to him twice for a list of the books *published by his firm*. The two things are totally different. They have not the slightest connection with each other. The two transactions had even no sort of connection with each other in point of *time*, for a year had elapsed between them. The "lists" were sent for, in *August* 1872, while Mr. Adam's own letter wishing to become an "intermediate agency" of the Department with England was dated in September, 1873. In the matter of the lists, Mr. Adam was treated precisely the same as every other *original publisher* of books. Similar applications for lists with prices, before ordering books are sent to every publisher in Canada, the United States, and England. In the same way we have ordered the *original publications* of Mr. McMullen and Mr. Wyllie, of Brockville, Mr. Beadle, of St. Catharines, as well as Mr. Maclear, and Messrs. Campbell & Son, of Toronto, and whoever else *publishes a book* in Canada, &c.

In that way only can we have "*direct dealings*" with original publishers, and obtain their books. But this is a very different thing from prompting a man, or suggesting to him, to become the "intermediate agency"—"a commission merchant, in fact"—for the purchase of the books of other publishers. This is the essential characteristic of an "intermediate agency," and has nothing whatever to do with the buying from him of *what he alone publishes*, and which could only be obtained from him on favourable terms.

As to the special case of Mr. Adam's publications being required, some of them were asked for by parties wishing to get prizes, &c., and one or more was already on our lists. We had, therefore, before purchasing them to write to him for lists; and as parties desired the books, we had to write to him again,—as we supposed that the first memo. had miscarried.

One of the very objections urged by Mr. Adam is that we have "little *direct* dealings" with English publishers, whereas that is the very principle on which we have acted *with all publishers* from the beginning; and that is the sole reason why we sent to Mr. Adam, and to other publishers in Canada and elsewhere for lists. Thus I distinctly stated to Mr. Adam himself when resisting his "pressure" to become the very thing which he has denounced viz., "an intermediate agency." This in my letter of the 25th of September last, in reply to one written on the 18th by himself, (without even to the semblance of a "pressure" such as he insinuates,) I said "that, as we are in communication with the English publishers ourselves, we are not in a position to order books except from them *direct*. Our invariable rule is to order only from the individual publishers, unless in rare and special cases." That I could have brought a "pressure" on him to sell, and then at the same time to write such a letter to him without remonstrance, is too absurd to be further discussed. He did, however, write next day, but only to make a renewal of his application to act as "a commission merchant in fact" for over "a hundred English publishers."

Very truly yours,
J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, Feb 12.

VIII. MAP-MOUNTING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Editor of The Mail.

SIR,—With reference to a statement in your paper this morning over the signature of G. Mercer Adam, as follows: "But if we could get behind the scenes and ascertain how much of the $5,624.60 paid one man for map-mounting actually went into the map-mounter's pocket, and how much of it was extracted from him by the way of percentage, or the remuneration of other favoured members 'of officials' families,'" I have the honour to reply, and am prepared to make affidavit that there is not one word of truth in this statement. I have never paid one farthing for any such purpose. I have mounted maps for the Department for about twenty years, and have given full value for all moneys received, as my invoices will show. A percentage or discount has frequently been deducted by the officers of the Department for fluctuations in the cotton market, but this has always been done on the face of the invoices, and I have only received from the Treasury Department the net sums after these deductions have been made. I may further state that for many years I have worked for nearly all the gilders and map-mounters, booksellers, &c., in Toronto; but, owing to the great amount of work done, the prices charged to the Department have been, in consequence, a little lower than the prices charged to the trade.

J. B. CARTER.

Toronto, 19th Feb., 1874.

IX. REPORT ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

BY A LARGE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

At the request of the Chief Superintendent of Education, a large Committee of twenty-three, out of eighty-two members of the Legislative Assembly, (more than one fourth of the whole House,) was appointed to consider the suggestions which he had submitted in his two last official reports, respecting certain amendments to the Grammar and Common School Laws; also to inquire into the management and working of the Education Department.

Various attacks and imputations have been made in past years against the Chief Superintendent and others in the management of the Department, and he was anxious, before retiring from its administration, that the most thorough investigation should be made into the working of the Department by Representatives of the people. The leaders of both parties in the Assembly agreed to the selection and appointment of a large Committee from both sides of the House, and on the 10th of November, "On motion of the Hon. Attorney-General Macdonald," (as we learn from the "Votes and Proceedings" of the House of Assembly,) "a Select Committee was appointed to examine into the working of the Common and Grammar School System of Ontario, together with the Department of Public Instruction, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report thereon.

The following is the report of that Committee, presented, received and ordered to be printed by the Legislative Assembly, the day before the close of the Session. This report is an ample vindication of the Chief Superintendent, and all who have assisted him, from the imputations long and recklessly thrown upon them by a portion of the public press and other parties; an unquestionable testimony to the fidelity, efficiency and economy with which the Department of Public Instruction has been conducted in its various branches and details.

REPORT OF THE COMMON AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly, Ontario.

The Select Committee appointed to examine into the working of the Common and Grammar School System of Ontario, together with the Department of Public Instruction, beg leave to present their Report:—

Your Committee have considered the provisions of the law respecting Common and Grammar Schools, and adopted certain resolutions for the amendment thereof, which have been embodied in Bills numbers 119 and 129, now before your honourable House.

Some progress has been made in investigating the management and usefulness of Upper Canada College, but owing to the lateness of the session and the number of persons to be examined, and documents to be considered, the Committee will not be able to report thereon this session. They have also procured returns and other useful information, which have been printed under the order of your honourable House for the use of members.

The Committee visited the Education Office, and examined the system of management pursued there, and appointed a sub-Committee for the more careful and extended investigation of that department of the educational system. The result of the labour of that Committee is embodied in their report as adopted and approved by your Committee, and herewith submitted.

Your Committee have to congratulate the country upon the extent and efficiency of its educational system, brought to its present state of usefulness mainly by the indefatigable exertions of the able and venerable Chief Superintendent, the Reverend Doctor Ryerson, seconded by the Council of Public Instruction, and a most efficient staff of officers, together with the liberal provision made by the respresentatives of the people for the support of education in all its branches.

Your Committee are also much indebted to the Chief Superintendent for the great assistance given to the Committee by him in pursuing their inquiries; and it is matter of regret to the Committee, that the time at their disposal, owing to the many calls upon its members in the discharge of other legislative duties, has prevented the preparation of an extended report upon the subjects embraced in their enquiries.

All which is respectfully submitted.

M. C. CAMERON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
January 19th, 1869.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND DEPOSITORY.

To the Chairman of the Educational Committee :—

The sub-Committee appointed to examine into the internal management of the Educational Department, report :—

That in undertaking the duties assigned to them, they first determined to make a thorough examination into the mode of conducting the financial department.

Your Committee find that the system adopted by the Department is of so thorough and complete a character, that no funds can by any possibility be received without being checked by proper officers, whose several duties require them to make entries in various books, through which every item can readily be traced.

They find that all moneys received by the Department are regularly deposited to the credit of the Government, with the exception of moneys intended to be disbursed in the purchase of articles outside of the institution [Trustees' School seals merely], and that all expenditures are made by cheque, properly countersigned by the different heads of the department to which they respectively belong.

They find that a perfect system of registration of every communication received by the department is maintained, by means of which the several officers to whose department the communication has reference, are immediately apprized of the contents, and answers are promptly returned to the same.

Your Committee have also made a thorough investigation of the Depository department, and find that the existing arrangements for purchasing stock are satisfactory and well fitted for securing the same on the most favourable terms. The mode of disposing of the books is equally satisfactory.

Your Committee find that the amount yearly received by the Department from the Municipalities for books, maps, &c., is very considerable, amounting in 1868 to $20,004.20, which sum is paid directly into the Public Treasury, and should be regarded as an offset against the amount granted to the Department.

In connexion with this subject your Committee submit the following statement, showing the cost of books, maps, &c., and the amount received for the same from 1850 to 1867, inclusive. Also the amount received from the Government on account thereof, viz. :—

The total amount paid for books, maps, &c., imported from 1850 to 1867, was		$271,869 52
Purchases in Montreal		3,990 06
Articles manufactured or purchased in Toronto		93,146 88
		$369,006 46
Freight, agency, packing, printing, insurance, salaries, and expenses		73,600 19
		$442,606 65
Value of Books dispatched, Libraries, including the 100 per cent. granted		123,298 97
Maps, prizes, &c.		213,993 78
Do. sold, without grant, (text books), &c.		82,182 59
		$419,475 34
Grants received from Government on this account, from 1850-67		253,518 48
Less remitted Receiver-General		66,378 69
		$187,139 79
If we deduct half of the above-mentioned amounts	$123,298 97 213,993 78	337,292 75
Which is		$168,646 37

We get the amount of goods despatched over and above what was paid for.

Taking then the grants	$187,139 79
And deducting the above proportion of goods	168,646 37
Leaves a balance of	$18,493 42

Which amount is fully covered by the stock on hand.

The above is exclusive of the transactions of 1868.

Your Committee in making this investigation have noticed that a considerable amount of extra labour has been performed in the depository and other departments by Messrs. Hodgins, Marling, and Taylor, to whose energies and abilities in a great measure the department is indebted for its present state of efficiency.

The services rendered by these gentlemen, outside of their ordinary business, and during extra hours, has hitherto rendered unnecessary the employment of additional assistance; and having performed these duties for nearly five years, your Committee regret the reduction which has been made in the amount of their emoluments, without relieving them of their extra duties, the result of which will in all probability be an increased expenditure in the shape of additional clerks.

Among other things, the printing of the establishment came under review of your Committee, and they call attention to the fact, that the prices charged by the Queen's printer are in excess of those formerly paid; for instance—

	Copies.	Lovell's Charge.	Queen's Printers Charge.	Excess.
Journal of Education	5520	$130 00	$156 50	$26 50
Board of Trustees' Report	125	17 50	28 32	10 92
Scheme for Analysis	1000	10 00	15 77	5 77
	6645	$157 50	$200 59	$43 09*

Your Committee have collected a complete set of the forms and papers used in the department, which they submit for your inspection.

Your Committee have great pleasure in reporting, that the internal management of the Educational Department is most satisfactory.

In conclusion, they would recommend that there be a yearly audit of the books of the department.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. McMURRICH,
Chairman sub-Com.

Toronto, January, 1869.

* The Queen's Printer contractors in their explanatory Report to the Hon. the Attorney-General Macdonald, on these charges, conclude as follows :—

"We must acknowledge, however, that we are somewhat surprised that the difference in favour of our contract, admitted by all practical printers to be an exceedingly low one, is not greater than it is; and it is quite evident, after a careful examination of the accounts attached to Mr. Hodgins' report, [to the Chief Superintendent, on the Queen's Printer's Account for November and December, 1868], that the printing of the Education Department has been most economically managed."—[EDUCATION OFFICE NOTE.]

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR ONTARIO,
1st February, 1869.

X. REMARKS AND OPINIONS OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES RECEIVED IN 1872-1873.

Township of Walpole.—"The trustees have left the choice of the prize books to the Board of Education. They have selected prize books for said section for 1871 and 1872, which suited well. Please select Prize Books for 1873."

Township of Marlborough.—"The prizes we received have acted like a charm; the little children like to come to school much better. The parents, seeing them so anxious to learn, keep them much better supplied with books than formerly. We would leave the choice of the prizes entirely to the Department."

Township of Ekfrid.—"They (the merit cards) have caused a great excitement among the scholars; much more than we had any expectation of. But we find that we have not sent for enough single merits, as there is a much larger attendance now than there was before we gave the merits."

Township of Mulmur.—"Being desirous of obtaining a good Sabbath School Library for our Sabbath School, we thought we would not suit ourselves better than by making application to your Department for it. We got a small supply (of books) early in the summer and as they gave good satisfaction, we agreed to increase our library this fall with a select number of books from your depository."

Township of Walsingham.—"The enclosed amount is for the purpose of getting some more prize books similar to those you sent this spring to us, with which we were highly pleased; and the books for the library exceeded our highest expectation. The selection and material surpasses anything we have ever got before from any other establishment. We intend sending for

about the same amount again this winter. We were so highly pleased with them that we intend to enlarge our library. We cannot lay out our money better, and our neighbouring sections are doing the same and intend to send to the Department instead of purchasing from London and other places."

Township of Walpole.—"I may mention that the selection you made before for us was satisfactory."

Town of Picton.—"The chemical apparatus ordered by us has been duly received in good order and is likely to give entire satisfaction. The Department has our best thanks for the care displayed in the selecion."

Township of Middleton.—"I sent forty dollars for prizes and maps last winter, and I was well pleased with them; they gave universal satisfaction."

Township of Waterloo.—"They wish to leave the selection to you as they feel confident that your selection will prove satisfactory."

Township of Dover East.—"We leave selection to the Department as we have heretofore received satisfaction. Have the kindness to take into consideration that ours is a Catholic section."

Township of Sarnia.—"Last year the trustees of this section obtained from the Department, Prize Package No. 1, which gave good satisfaction."

City of Ottawa.—"With regard to the selection of the prizes I leave it entirely to the Department, being satisfied, that, judging from the past, a judicious choice will be made."

Township of Manvers.—"For the remainder, both special and general prizes, the selection will be left entirely to the Department, as the selections of last year gave perfect satisfaction."

Township of Stephen.—We scarcely know what to select, but will trust to your judgment to send us good sound literature, as the last you sent gave good satisfaction."

Village of Omemee.—"Please make the selection. The Department's choice has always been satisfactory."

Union School, Williamstown.—"We leave the selection to you, with the assurance that you will on this occasion afford us the same satisfaction you have heretofore given us."

Township of Blandford.—"As you well suited us in the past five consecutive years the selection is again left to you"

Townships of Eldon and Mariposa.—"We left the selection to the Department last year, and were satisfied that they were better than we could select, and we therefore leave it to you this year also."

Townships of Albion and Chinguacousy.—"The last selection of books you sent us gave good satisfaction, and we leave it to the Department to select for us this time also."

Townships of Yonge and E. R.—"Being well pleased with your selection last year, we again ask you to select about 100 prizes."

Township of Mara.—"We have received the package of books in good order. They gave great satisfaction to the trustees, parents and children of the School. We are satisfied that we could not get as good a selection from any book-store in the county."

Township of Logan.—"The parcel of books which you have caused to be sent to us have arrived safely, and they have given great satisfaction."

Township of Fitzroy.—"I beg to return you thanks for the good selection which you have made and sent us this time; they are superior to any prizes we have received yet."

Township of Pittsburgh.—"The trustees directed me to say that the parcel of prize books sent in 1872-3 was entirely satisfactory—every book sent for by them was forwarded by the Depository promptly, and that, only for the extremely liberal grant given by the Department, they could not face their constituents after expending *any* sum on either maps or prize books, and they sincerely hope that the system of granting $100 on remittances will be continued."

Township of Elizabethtown.—"Please send down by express $10 worth of books, &c., suitable for prizes for the children. I need not specify; you can select what is suitable for them better than I could direct."

Township of Lochiel.—"Permit me to return you thanks for the selection of prize books, which were duly received, and gave great satisfaction."

Township of Plympton.—"The books sent are the best selection of prizes they (the trustees) ever got."

Township of Collingwood.—"The books sent us last year suited us very well. Will you have the kindness to make a selection for us again?"

Township of Crowland.—"We received the prizes from you, and can say in return that they give general satisfaction. They created an interest in the Section, both among scholars and parents, which has not been aroused before."

Township of Matilda.—"As your selections are generally preferred, and, in every instance with which we are acquainted, have proved satisfactory, so we refer this selection to you."

Townships of Norwich, N. & S.—"Your selection of prizes on two previous occasions has given good satisfaction, so we send this list rather for your guidance than as an absolute rule. If there are any of the articles asked for which you have not in stock, send such others as in your judgment may be nearest those sought."

Township of Trafalgar.—"Both children and parents were well pleased with the selection they received last year."

Township of Zorra West.—"I may state that the selection of prize books made in December for the school by the Department proved highly satisfactory."

Township of Innisfil.—"Those (prize books) you sent have given such good satisfaction that we will soon send again."

Inspector, County of Haldimand.—"I was very much pleased with the prize books sent by the Department, and will urge Trustees to apply to you for semi-annual supplies of them."

Township of Zorra East.—"We should like the same care taken in selection, and books of the larger size, averaging from thirty to eighty cents each."

Township of Normanby.—"Accept our sincere thanks for the books and cards received from the Education Office, especially for the German books, which are very interesting, useful and instructive."

Township of Dorchester, N.—"The globes are everything that could be expected; they are a credit to the makers."

Township of Bruce.—"We feel very well satisfied with the selection you made for us."

Township of Colborne.—"The selection made for me by the Department has always been most satisfactory."

Townships of Crosby, N. and S.—"The selection made by the Department last time was so excellent that it is again left to it—only suggesting that a few toys, instead of books, would be as well for the smaller pupils."

Township of Essa.—"We were well satisfied with your selection last year."

Village of Colborne.—"Your last selection was very satisfactory."

Township of Chinguacousy.—"In the selection of books that you sent us in March last we found several excellent books, and we therefore leave the selection to the Department again."

Township of Thurlow.—"We leave the selection of the books, &c., with you, for those we received last year were all that could be desired, and you selected them."

Township of Blandford.—"The selection being left with you, as you have suited us by your selection for the last four years."

Township of Nissouri, W.—"Having seen a selection of prize books sent from your Depository, I feel confident you will select books as good as possible at the price."

Township of Yonge Front.—"The maps and T. R. Lessons I purchased at the Depository in October last, I am glad to say, have given not only satisfaction to the trustees, but a real pleasure to the teacher and scholars. The Tablet Reading Lessons are certainly necessary for small children reading the first book."

Township of Wellesley.—"The selection we leave to you, as that you made for us for two years previously was better than we could have made ourselves; and the books you sent gave complete satisfaction to all."

Township of Minto.—"The packages of prize books we have previously got from the Department have given us great satisfaction."

City of Ottawa.—"We were very much pleased with the Department's selection for "Teacher's Library," and therefore leave the choice of this prize lot entirely to yourself."

Union School, Williamstown.—"We will leave, as on former occasions, the selection of the books to your superior judgment."

Township of Beverley—"As the selections heretofore made by the Department have given satisfaction, we leave them to be made as on former occasions."

Township of Vespra.—"The trustees desire me to say that the packages they received in the year 1870 gave good satisfaction."

Township of Fitzroy.—"The selection you will please make yourself, as we were well pleased with books, &c., sent us in March last."

Farmersville—"We are highly pleased with the maps, apparatus, &c., sent to our school at the beginning of the present year. The maps, in particular, give universal satisfaction. We have no sympathy whatever with those who speak and write disparagingly of the praiseworthy efforts of the Department."

Township of Bayham.—"You gave good satisfaction in answer to similar order last year, and I feel confident that you can do better than if I attempt to select from the catalogue myself."

Township of Innisfil.—"We leave the selection to you. We were well satisfied with those you sent last year."

Township of Mariposa.—"We got a package (prizes) last year, and it was better than those we could select."

Township of Moore.—"The selections of former years were entirely to our minds; therefore, we leave the matter wholly in your hands."

Township of Saltfleet.—"We have been getting prize books some seven years, and have always been satisfied before."

Township of Brock.—"Your last selection gave entire satisfaction."

Township of Mariposa.—"We are highly pleased with the prizes we got from the department. There are some excellent books among them. Our school is very prosperous this year—I believe partly due to competition for prizes by merit cards."

City of Ottawa——(Inspector P. S.)—"I have much pleasure in expressing my satisfaction with the selection of works made by the officers of the Department, both in the Teachers' Library and the Christmas prizes."

Township of Mara.—"We leave the choice of the articles to you. We did so before, and were well pleased at the result."

Township of Raleigh.—"We offer you our thanks for the very suitable prize books we received in November last, which gave general satisfaction."

Township of Townsend.—"Your last selection was so suitable and appropriate that we leave the choice again in your hands."

Township of Williams West.—"The last library we procured contained books, chiefly on *Adventures in Hunting*, &c., which appeared to excite an interest for reading in the section, and satisfied all parties."

Township of Fenelon.—"We thought the last assortment was beautifully selected."

Township of Keppel.—"The books you sent have arrived safe and in good order, and we were very well pleased with them."

Township of Whitby West.—"Your selections in previous years for our school have given satisfaction, and we prefer leaving it with you again, to making our own selection."

Township of Williamsbury.—"I received your merit cards, and was well pleased with them."

Township of Grantham.—"The books you sent us last year gave satisfaction."

Township of Mauvers.—"We are well pleased with what we received before, and again leave them (prize books) to your selection."

Township of Sydenham.—"The library books we obtained last year gave great satisfaction."

Township of Gloucester.—"We received the package (prizes) last year, and were well pleased with them."

Township of Puslinch.—"The package of prize books and the map of the world sent from the Department were in every respect found to be satisfactory."

Township of Esquesing.—"Last year you selected the books for us; the selection giving good satisfaction."

Township of Dereham.—"Though we did not receive all the books we sent for, still those selected in their places were very appropriate."

Township of Egremont.—"We leave you to make the selection, as we have always got satisfaction in the past."

Township of Marmora.—"I think it is seven times I have gotten prize books from the Department, and always with good satisfaction.

Township of Petewawa.—"You will please accept our thanks for your very good and appropriate selection of books, and the many little pleasing extras you so kindly put in, which I feel sure will all help to elevate our schools still more."

Township of Haldimand.—"The books and papers ordered at your office give the best satisfaction, for which accept our thanks."

XI. PRICES OF DEPOSITORY BOOKS.

A STATEMENT AND APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE BOOKSELLERS.

The editor of the *Brockville Recorder* (David Wyllie, Esq.) in remarking on the subject of the Depository in his paper of the 26th Feb., uses the following very significant language in regard to the prices of the Depository books, and the hopes of the booksellers in regard to these prices under the proposed provisions of the School Bill on the subject. Mr. Wyllie says:—

"Our experience with the Depository is, that many of the Books "*are marked at a very low figure*, but that the catalogue could not "be depended upon, as they never had a full list in stock * * * "care should be taken by the Government *that the Department* "*does not mark the books down below their actual value*, and thus "defeat the OBJECT *of the Bill.*"

In one of the "suggestions" Pamphlet on the Depository issued "for the trade," the writer urges that catalogues and lists of books be issued from time to time, *with such prices affixed as will not prevent the trade from competing with the Depository.*

In regard to the prices of the Depository books, the following testimony of two of the Inspectors is conclusive. W. R. Bigg, Esq., Inspector of Public Schools, Leeds, says:—

"With regard to the Depository, I wish to add to my former statement, that I have frequently tested the prices of books in a wholesale shop in Brockville, as compared with those of similar works at the former, and have *invariably found a difference of at least 25 per cent. in favour of the Depository, irrespective of the 100 per cent. Departmental allowance.*

"After I resigned the position of Principal of the United High Public School of Brockville, I was succeeded by the present incumbent, Dr. Evans, and in the summer of 1872, he was authorized by the Board of Trustees to expend the sum voted for prizes, among the town book-sellers, if he found he could purchase nearly as advantageously as at the Depository in Toronto, taking into consideration the aforesaid Departmental allowance of 100 per cent.

"As the result of Dr. Evans' investigation with the determination, or rather the inclination on his part to purchase in Brockville, if possible, I may mention that the order was as usual transmitted to the Education Office, the Doctor having satisfied himself, that independent of the 100 per cent. bonus, the books could be purchased at a less price from the Depository, besides the advantages of a better and more varied assortment. Perhaps it may not be inappropriate further to observe, that the town book-sellers were aware of the contemplated purchase, and offered their wares for less than their regular prices."

John Johnston, Esq., Inspector of South Hastings, also says:—

"During 14 years as a teacher, many prize books were sent from the Depository, *giving the trustees, myself, and all concerned, the very best satisfaction as regards price and reading matter, the Department in all cases making the selections*; and I can prove that the Depository sells Educational works, at least, 40 per cent. less than some of the book-sellers, and all books are sold much less than they sell them."

Toronto, March, 1874.

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